In August 2006, Dr. Syd Peng, Chair of Mining Engineering, and C. T. Holland Professor, West Virginia University, and Chair of ICGCM Organizing Committee, and the Conference celebrated and commemorated its 25th anniversary at the Lakeview Scanticon Resort, Morgantown, WV. The keynote speaker was David G. Dye, Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration. Mr. Dye addressed the Conference by recognizing Dr. Syd Peng’s significant contributions in longwall mining and ground control. He said that, Dr. Peng’s contributions have had a major impact on improving safety and reducing fatalities in America’s mines. He thanked Peng for the important work he has carried on throughout the years. Many miners are alive today because of Dr. Peng’s dedicated work to protect them. When Mr. Dye learned that, there are many mine operators at this Conference, he extended a special welcome to them. He said, “It is with people like you who care, who insist on learning the most up-to-date safety and health information, who actively participate in safety and health decisions in your mines—that we can work together to reduce injuries, illnesses and fatalities in our nation’s mines.”

In Summer of 1981, the first International Conference Ground Control in Mining (ICGCM) was held in Morgantown, WV to provide a forum for academia, researchers, mine operators, support service providers, equipment manufacturers, and government regulators to promote and advance the state-of-art in ground control in mining. All but three conferences in the past 25 years have been held in Morgantown. More than 5,000 attendees from all mining/mineral producing states in the US and 30 foreign countries have participated in the Conferences since established in 1981.

The 25th ICGCM in progress.

Attendng ICGCM more than 20 years: Daniel Su, Syd Peng, Chris Mark, Wahab Khair, Kelvin K. Wu and Frank Chase.

Keynote speaker: David G. Dye.

Dr. Syd S. Peng, Chair of ICGCM Organization Comm.

The history of the Conference. They have boldly dealt with and promoted many innovative ideas from legal, exploration to surface and underground mining. They have further introduced many new ground control technologies to the industry that have made mining both safer and more productive. Some of which have become industry standards today.

Aside from quality papers, presentations and publications, the Conference also provides a meeting place for the exchange of information related to the field of ground control, concept discussion and debates, opportunities for transaction negotiation, and personal and professional relationship establishment and enhancement.

At the banquet, attendance awards for the attendees with 10, 10-14, 15-19 and more than 20 years were presented in front of more than 300 attendees this year. The Conference sponsors were also recognized for their support of various events. The companies and agencies sponsoring the Conference are: Agapito Associates, Inc., CONSOL Energy, Excel Mining Systems, Fasloc, Inc., J. H. Fletcher & Co., Micon, Inc., Hilti Corporation, Mine Safety and Health Administration, Minova USA, Inc., NIOSH (formerly USBM), West Virginia Coal Association, West Virginia University. (See Appreciation at ICGCM website: http://www.cemr.wvu.edu/~icgcm/)

Dr. Syd Peng’s first book “Longwall Mining” after he stepped down from Department Chair last September is now available. Place the order at: http://www2.cemr.wvu.edu/~speng. Or, call (304) 293-7680 X3301.