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**Closing Ceremony  
of the 12th IABSE Congress**

**Cérémonie de clôture  
du 12e Congrès de l'AIPC**

**Schlusszeremonie  
des 12. Kongresses der IVBH**

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**Thanks**

Remerciements

Dank

**Peter F. ADAMS**

Chairman

Canadian National Committee for the 12th Congress  
Edmonton, AB, Canada

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen

Organizing an International Congress - to the high standards of IABSE - is not an easy job.

We had some support from the Civil Engineering Departments of the Canadian Universities: Univ. of Alberta, Univ. of British Columbia, Univ. of Calgary, Univ. of Saskatchewan, Univ. of Manitoba, Techn. Univ. of Nova Scotia, Univ. of New Brunswick, Ecole Polytechnique Laval University, Univ. of Toronto, Univ. of Windsor, Univ. of Waterloo, Carleton Univ., Univ. of Sherbrooke, McGill Univ., Univ. of Ottawa, McMaster Univ., Queens Univ., Univ. of Western Ontario.

It is my pleasure to identify the Vancouver team that made it possible for us to enjoy the Congress:

Sam Lipson, Chairman of the Vancouver Committee

Bill Schriever, Translators

Irv Nitkin, Treasurer

Larry Bush, Program

Merve Pierce, Contributions

Bob Piggot, Exhibitions.

Event Committee: Peter Taylor, Larrie Maranda, Bill Garrick, Tony Boyd, Dave Calder, Hank Kolbeins.

Congress Team: Andy Vizer, Roger Stilwell, Knut Manniche, Dick Summers, Noel Nathan.

Ladies Program and Hospitality: Bruce Peter, Jean Jamieson, Betty Nitkin, Lona Bush.

I would like to thank Roger Dorton and his Scientific Committee for developing the superb technical programme we enjoyed this week.

They were aided by an outstanding group of speakers, chairmen and coordinators. And of course, you were a superb group of participants.

Finally, I would like to thank the Zurich Headquarters Group. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with Professor Thürlmann, Mr. Golay, Miss Brand and the other members of the staff.

Thanks also to Sayeed Mirza representing here the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Have a safe trip home. Return to Canada soon. I will see you in Helsinki.

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## Final Comments

Commentaires finals

Schlussbetrachtungen

**Hans WITTOHT**

Chairman  
Technical Committee  
Frankfurt, FRG

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The days of the 12th Congress of the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering come to an end with this session.

I hope that all of you have gained something to take home for the benefit of your own work. I feel that anybody who is willing to learn could get some stimulation - listening to the lectures dealing with interesting theoretical and practical details of the construction business or looking at the wide range of engineering in the construction of bridges, buildings and other structures and taking home at least an impression of what is going on in the arctic ocean or across the inland seas between Honshu and Shikoku. Let us light the candle of innovations which Prof. Pozzi showed us and be aware of the fact that in our day to day business rough winds around us will blow it out. To stay with this figurative comparison, we have to be prepared with a lot of match-boxes to light the candle again and again.

Especially in the last morning session we got an idea about what is really inventive today and what could be expected in the 1990's! I am sure that we will continue to have new ideas and methods in design, fabrication and construction and we will also find more new types of structure. Whoever believes that construction engineering is at the end of its resources is wrong. The foundation of knowledge reached in these days will launch further innovations and improvements, and we are now only at the beginning. From the "innovative impulse" to the "follow up" and the "circulation with modifications and improvements" we have to consider that possibly many years will pass.

The present time is a time of concern - a time which both challenges and holds for the IABSE an innovative future. All are therefore called upon to contribute as much as they can towards a successful future of IABSE, even if the immediate future forbodes a time of increased effort against the economic downturn in many parts of the world. IABSE works for the benefit of civil engineering. At least all those may profit who are interested in its improvement. Let us recognize that construction activity plays an important role in the technical development of the world. Its absence would be unthinkable in our modern world.

Every civil engineer should always be aware of the latest technological developments. Therefore, it is essential to make known quickly our latest findings, pointing out trends for the benefit of our professional activity, even if corrections and modifications might be necessary later. We live and learn, so we depend on perpetual adaptation. We must set ourselves the goal of ensuring the quality of our construction. Mistakes encountered in the past should be eliminated and the experience thereby gained employed for the further development

of engineering. The requirements of quality are concentrated towards the "scientific base", the "construction material" and the "construction method". Simple clear working procedures facilitate control of quality by the construction worker and the engineer. Practical constructions permit and facilitate maintenance and repair. We must particularly direct our efforts towards the increasingly important problem of construction in an aggressive environment and work towards prolonging the life span, either by improving its composition and structure or by protecting it from external attack. Here is an area for future research. Nevertheless, compared with the history of construction as a whole, our modern construction methods are very young indeed. It is, therefore, to be expected that mistakes will be made. With the volume of construction being carried out around the world, the total number of actual construction failures has fortunately been small in comparison with the past number. This is in contrast to the occasional portrayals by the media.

The global exchange of experience made possible by the IABSE has always provided a rapid and effective dissemination of know-how. Our IABSE publications contribute in a large measure to this. Of particular importance in this connection are the commissions set up to investigate specific problems encountered in our constructions and to ensure the dissemination of state-of-the-art know-how. In the future we will publish in the IABSE PERIODICA introductions on the problems encountered. A "problem statement" should be given by the competent commission chairman or another selected author, followed by four short contributions from different experts stating opinions, proposals and solutions. The conclusions may provide a basis for the work of the commission.

The time has come for us to put the image of the engineer in its true light. Engineers are not causing environmental problems by applying their techniques - rather the continually increasing number of people in the world. On the contrary, engineers try hard to solve such problems. Here, it is possible after having solved some problems, that further problems arise. As long as the expansion of the population in our world cannot be stopped, there will always be a succession of new problems. Our only hope is that we will be successful in solving all these problems in good time. A very important part of this operation is assigned to civil engineers and the construction enterprises.

Modern construction techniques have been adopted by almost every country in the world. While those in the industrialized nations have already collected primary experience in the field, other nations, with the number of such applications rapidly multiplying, are looking for suitable methods and solutions. We have to compare the "high-tech" tools available and the needs of each country, depending upon the level of their industrialization or the challenge of specific task. It needs all efforts to have a successful improvement of cooperation between countries of different development, with results from which the construction business can benefit all over the world.

And let us always have in mind:

"Every new day is the first day of the future!"

Let us take up the challenge.

## Invitation to the 13th IABSE Congress

Invitation au 13e Congrès de l'AIPC

Einladung zum 13. Kongress der IVBH

**Kurt WIDBOM**

Chairman

Finnish Group of IABSE

Helsinki, Finland

Mesdames et Messieurs,  
 Meine Damen und Herren,  
 Mr. President,  
 Ladies and Gentlemen

The Finnish Group of the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering, together with the Association of Finnish Civil Engineers, has the great honour and pleasure to invite the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering to hold its thirteenth Congress in Helsinki, beginning 5th of June 1988.

For three years the preliminary Organizing Committee has been studying the questions connected with the Congress arrangements. During this time most valuable information has been given by the Headquarters of IABSE especially by the President, Prof. Thürlimann, and the Executive Director, Mr. Alain Golay, to whom we want to express our special gratitude.

The arranging of such a conference would not be possible with the resources of the Finnish Group of IABSE alone. Thus the decision made by the Board of the Association of Finnish Civil Engineers to take over the financial responsibility and the practical arrangements has made it possible to invite IABSE to Helsinki in 1988.

The scheduled time of the Congress, a few weeks before Midsummer, will be most suitable as far as the weather is concerned. There are light nights in Finland with no sunset at all in Lapland.

And finally I assure you that we do not have any icebears walking the streets of Helsinki!

Mr. President,  
 Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Finnish Group of IABSE and the Association of Finnish Civil Engineers are looking forward to meeting you all and our other Colleagues, accompanied by spouses and friends on the 5th of June 1988 in Helsinki.

Bienvenu à Helsinki  
 Willkommen in Helsinki  
 Welcome in Helsinki 1988  
 Tervetuloa Helsinkiin

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## Closing Speech

Discours final

Schlussansprache

**Bruno THÜRLIMANN**

President of IABSE

Zurich, Switzerland

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This then brings us the end of our 12th Congress of IABSE. The idea to hold this Congress in Canada, originated of all places in Austin, Texas.

Roger Green, Professor at Waterloo University, Ontario, and I were visiting professors in the fall of 1978 at the University of Texas. We developed the first ideas and Roger made the first contacts to the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering and, in particular, to Prof. Peter Wright. I would like to express to Roger my sincere thanks for his initial idea and help and for his continuing support. Many persons and organizations have been involved in making this Congress a success.

I have pleasure to announce that the Executive Committee of IABSE decided to confer Honorary Membership to Prof. P.F. Adams and Dr. R.A. Dorton, in recognition to the eminent services rendered to the Association on the occasion of the 12th Congress of IABSE.

Our further thanks go to the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering represented here by Prof. Saeed Mirza, Senior Vice President.

Prof. Lipson and his local staff deserve our thanks for the well functioning local arrangements.

The success of a Congress is firstly measured by its technical programme. I would like to thank the General Reporters who have set the guidelines in the Introductory Report. Our sincere appreciation goes to the various Speakers from all parts of the world for their effort to prepare a contribution and present it to us. We are all looking forward to studying in more detail their written contributions in the Final Report.

The Session Chairmen, coming from so many countries, showed the worldwide connections of our Association. I am deeply grateful to them as well as to the Coordinators, who so ably conducted the sessions.

Mr. Roger Stilwell deserves a special mention. He was responsible for the Poster Session which, in my opinion, developed into a real forum for establishing personal professional contacts.

Let me also express my thanks to our own staff in particular to Miss Brand and our Executive Director Mr. Golay. Through his experience, his dedication as well as through his attention to details, IABSE can operate under the varying situations and conditions in the different countries.



Ladies and Gentlemen,

A Congress also needs a receptive and well-informed audience. We are very grateful that you responded in such a great number to our invitation to come to Vancouver. I am sure that Prof. Adams joins me in expressing our sincere gratitude.

We had the opportunity to introduce our Association to many participants attending an IABSE Congress for the first time. We hope they found a high professional standard with a truly international scope as well as a congenial and friendly atmosphere. We would be very pleased if this experience would encourage them to join our Association as members and participate actively in its activities.

Finally, let us take a look into the future. Our thanks go to our Finnish friends and their Chairman Mr. Widbom for their invitation to hold the 13th Congress in 1988 in Helsinki. They have expressed their invitation in such a cordial and attractive way that we just cannot miss the next Congress. We are all looking forward to meeting again in Helsinki.

In concluding I wish all of you some additional pleasant days here in Vancouver and Canada. I wish you also a safe and happy return to your home country.

Good-bye  
Bon voyage  
Glückliche Heimkehr  
Sayonara  
Näkemiin Helsingissä (see you all in Helsinki)