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Welcome Address

Discours de bienvenue

Willkommensansprache

Peter F. ADAMS

Chairman

Canadian National Committee for the 12th Congress

Edmonton, AB, Canada

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Friends from many different parts of the world

Welcome to Canada, to British Columbia and to Vancouver!
And welcome most of all to the 12th Congress of the International
Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering.

It is my pleasure to introduce the members of your platform party:

- Dr. Bruno Thürlimann, President, International Association for Bridge
and Structural Engineering
- Dr. Jack Davis, representing the Government of British Columbia
- Senator Ray Perrault, representing the Government of Canada
- Dr. Sayeed Mirza Senior Vice President, Canadian Society for Civil
Engineering
- Prof. Sam Lipson, Chairman, Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 12th
Congress
- I am Peter Adams, Chairman of the Canadian National Committee for the
12th Congress

There is one person who is not with us on the platform. Don Jamieson, the
first chairman of the Vancouver organizing committee died one year ago. He
is largely responsible for laying the foundation for this congress. The
sessions on Steel Construction, his special interest, are dedicated to his
memory.

IABSE is important to structural engineers in a way that transcends the
direct purpose of most technical meetings. Every country and region has
meetings that encourage the exchange of information among members of the
profession in that region or country. Only in an organization such as IABSE
do we have an opportunity to exchange information with structural engineers
whose professional cultures and experiences are so different from our own.
Those of us who are fortunate enough to be able to attend this congress have
a unique opportunity to expose ourselves to the ideas of our colleagues in
other countries and thus enlarge our own horizons.



We have a second opportunity at this congress - and that is the opportunity to meet and know people from other countries - on an individual basis to find about their tastes, experiences and their conditions under which they live - that is the foundation for the social programme of IABSE.

We are certainly among the fortunate few. Over the past few years, the world economy has been becalmed in one of the worst recessions since the 1930's. In the face of this recession owners and developers have postponed maintenance programmes, delayed renovations and cancelled new construction.

Our part of the profession has been hit hardest by these circumstances. The fact that at this time we have almost 800 registrants from more than 50 countries is indeed a tribute to the attractions of the congress and the tremendous efforts of organizers in all countries.

We in Canada are proud and delighted to host the twelfth congress of IABSE in Vancouver.