

Zeitschrift: IABSE congress report = Rapport du congrès AIPC = IVBH
Kongressbericht

Band: 13 (1988)

Rubrik: Closing ceremony of the 13th IABSE Congress

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 17.01.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

**Closing Ceremony
of the 13th IABSE Congress**

**Cérémonie de clôture
du 13e Congrès de l'AIPC**

**Schlusszeremonie
des 13. Kongresses der IVBH**

Leere Seite
Blank page
Page vide

Thanks

Remerciements

Dank

Yrjö MATIKAINEN

Managing Director

Association of Finnish Civil Engineers RIL

Helsinki, Finland

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends

13th Congress of International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering has nearly ended. Organizing this kind of big event needs a lot of work. Interest in organizing a Congress was expressed among Finnish experts nine years ago in Zürich-symposium. Since then we have worked to have a good congress here. Only you – the participants of Helsinki-Congress – are qualified to say if we have succeeded.

We wanted to offer you only the best. This place – Finlandia Hall – is the best in Finland. Just three weeks ago Ronald Reagan, the President of the United States, was standing in the same place in which I am standing now – and making his speech just before he went to Moscow.

Professor Sarja has handled our programme from the scientific point of view. I believe that the scientific committee has succeeded in providing interesting subjects for you to listen to and to watch. We hope that you have not tired too much from all that has happened in Finlandia Hall, so that you could also have had time to enjoy what is going out of doors.

We wanted to give you a surprise. You surely expected that when you travel here so far to the northern part of the world there is snowing and we will need also at daytime warm overcoat against the frost. But we had an agreement with the master of weather. Therefore we could offer you an exceptional warm – nearly tropical – weather. This kind of weather we have only once in a hundred years. We are happy about this.

On the behalf of the host country Finland I have the honour to give you all very warm thanks for coming to Finland and participating this congress. We have been very happy to have here in Finlandia Hall such excellent experts in the civil engineering area especially in the construction field. I want to thank warmly all of you who have been involved in planning and carrying out the scientific programme. Our warm thanks to the Scientific Committee – to the chairman of the Scientific Committee Professor Asko Sarja and all members of SC. Also thanks to all working commissions and Technical Committee for working out the programme.

We are proud that the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering has given us the opportunity to arrange this congress. I like to thank both of you, Professor von Gunten and Professor Thürliman.

To arrange a congress is to cooperate. We have had a excellent cooperation with the headquarters – Mr. Golay and his staff. Thanks to you Alain for that. It has been a great pleasure to arrange a congress with you and your staff.

On behalf of the Association of Finnish Civil Engineers I as managing director have the pleasure to thank the Finnish group of IABSE President Widbom and Professor Jutila. The organizing committee has worked very hard and from my point of view with excellent results. Thanks to you chairman Mr. Nieminen and members of the organizing committee and subcommittees, secretary general Miss Söderqvist. I want also thank my own staff and all who have been involved in the arrangements.

Finally I'd like to agree with those thoughts which were expressed in during the opening ceremonies. When we in the field of civil engineering do our best. We are serving society. Let's pay attention in our work to the needs of mother nature and to the needs of ordinary citizens.

Merci

Vielen Danken

Thank you

Kiitokset



Final Comments

Commentaires finals

Schlussbetrachtungen

Asko SARJA

Chairman
Technical Committee
Helsinki, Finland

Ladies and Gentlemen

After the hard work during four days it is now the time for conclusions of the program.

The congress was planned and organized at close international cooperation between scientific committee, local organizing committee, and IABSE Headquarters. In Finland we had also a national committee representing the whole Finnish construction community.

Characteristic at the planning of congress was working of IABSE working commissions especially at the selection of reports for publication and oral presentation. Only less than 30 % of all sent proposals, together 150 reports, could be accepted for oral presentation and about. In addition to that, about 90 reports were accepted for printing and presenting as posters. I think that the close cooperation of IABSE working commissions with the scientific committee was very succesfull method.

The title of the congress was CHALLENGES TO STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING. Now we can consider what challenges we have found during the congress. When going through the reports, I have found clearly the following challenges.

The structural engineers must learn to manage the quality, operation, maintenance and repair of structures and commonly of the build environment. For that much new research results and practical applications of design methods, materials and manufacturing methods are needed.

Second challenge is the application of new techniques into structural engineering. Much innovative research and design is needed to implement computer aid into the whole design and manufacturing process.

One big challenge is widening of the know-how of the structural

- lightning
- building physics
- acoustics
- fire resistance

To guarantee the economy and quality of the structural systems, the structural engineers must understand also the interaction between structural design, manufacturing methods and total production process.

The succesful application of new materials like composites into structures will need big efforts and much new ideas in research and practice.

The new production technology, for example automated production of components, mechanical assembly and even robotics will serve an extremely high potential of development. On that way we can improve the economy and quality of structures and eliminate the dangerous and unhealthy working conditions. I think that there is a lot of thinking needed to develop further the total construction technology for the post industrialized information society. This basic goals should be deeply considered among the structural engineers.

On the other hand there are very different problems to be solved in the developing countries. They have not been treated here but maybe they will be treated in the next 14th IABSE congress in Bombay in four years.

Commonly we can say that the challenge for structural engineers is to develop active and innovative ways for solving the many engineering problems and challenges of future development. The succes at this challenge will define the whole future role of structural engineers in the society.

During IABSE there is very high level of expective. Therefore it is extremely important to think how to utilize the expertise of research and practice into future succesful development of the construction technology. The ideas and reported research and design results of this congress can be utilized by individual participants in their every day work at the central organization and national groups of IABSE and through all the international contacts which we have bound here during the congress.

On behalf of the Scientific Committee I have the great pleasure to thank all persons and organizations which have taken part into the planning and arrangements of the technical program. Especially I would thank the invited keynote speakers which have spent a lot of time and energy for giving us the reports of highest possible level. Also I thank all outhors of reports, poster and design workshop for the very interesting results of your work. You have given to the congress the innovative and interesting scientific and technical spirit.

But we have to remember that the life is not only science and technology. During the congress we have had also the social program for accompanying persons, which I hope to have been successful. We have still left the post congress tours, which I hope to be a great success.

Have still nice days in the Finnish nature either in Aland, Eastern Finland or Lappland.



Closing Speech

Discours final

Schlussansprache

Hans von GUNTEN

President of IABSE

Zurich, Switzerland

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Colleagues,

After some pleasant and very agreeable days in Helsinki it is time to bid farewell. We just heard of the positive scientific results so I can concentrate on the "environment" of the Congress. We are all overwhelmed by the Finnish hospitality, and we are all charmed by the magnificent natural landscapes and the long northern days. We have all enjoyed the beauties of the modern Finnish architecture, which is unique and exemplary and surrounded us every day right here. We learned about the nature of the Finnish people and with certainty we have come to like and admire it. We will return to our everyday life with many agreeable memories and will certainly remember the days in Helsinki.

For all these experiences I would like to express my sincerest thanks. My first and special thanks go to the organizers of this Congress, who have devoted all their energies for a successful outcome. I also thank the Finnish Group of the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering and all professional organizations that supported this event. Further I would like to thank the City of Helsinki for their hospitality and Finland, which offered such a beautiful setting for our Congress.

In a few moments we will receive the invitation for the next Congress in New Delhi in four years time. Of course I hope to see you all again in New Delhi, but my next rendez-vous with you will be next year in Lisbon. I count on your continuing loyalty for the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering, and hope that our Association may develop further. I hope you will enjoy the remaining hours or days in Finland and have a good journey back in your country. With all my best wishes to you.

Invitation to the 14th IABSE Congress

Invitation au 14e Congrès de l'AIPC

Einladung zum 14. Kongress der IVBH

Ninan KOSHI

Chairman Elect of
the Indian National Group of IABSE
New Delhi, India

Mr. President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Indian National Group of the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering it is my pleasant duty to express our gratitude to the members of the Permanent Committee and the Executive Committee of the IABSE for accepting the invitation of the Indian National Group to hold the 14th Congress of the IABSE at New Delhi in March 1992.

New Delhi, the capital of India, has hosted many international conferences in the past. It has excellent convention centers, hotel accommodation and other infrastructure, required for holding such conferences. The 10th Congress of the FIP was held in New Delhi in 1986, and in 1985, we also hosted the World Energy Congress which had about 3000 participants. It shall be our endeavour to see that the 14th Congress of the IABSE is organized and conducted in a most satisfactory manner. Although the teams of the congress are yet to be finalized, I am sure that with the participation of experts from all over the world the technical content and level of discussions will also be as high as in the previous meetings of the IABSE.

Attending the 14th Congress will also give you an opportunity to see the fascinating diversity of the land and the people of India. From the nature lover to the wildlife enthusiast, to the mountain trekker, to the student of ancient architecture, India has something to offer for everyone. The mountains of the Himalayas, the flower field valley of Cashmere, the deserts of Rajasthan, the palm adorned beaches of Goa and Kerala, the wildlife sanctuaries and the ancient temples, palaces and forts of places like Jaipur and Udaipur present a panorama of spectacular beauty and diversity.

We shall be organizing many exciting pre- and post-conference tours which will give the participants an opportunity to see these magnificent tourist attractions, unsurpassed perhaps by any other country in the world. It gives me great pleasure on behalf of the Indian National Group to extend to all of you a formal invitation to attend the 14th Congress of the Association to be held at New Delhi in March 1992.

Thank you.



Invitation to the 14th IABSE Congress

Invitation au 14e Congrès d l'AIPC

Einladung zum 14. Kongress der IVBH

T. N. SUBBA RAO

Member of the Executive Committee of IABSE
Bombay, India

Honorable President von Gunten,
Dear Fellow-Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

You have just witnessed a film on India. It reflects only a small scenario of my country. India has a tradition for hospitality. Our forefathers believed that there is divinity in every man and by extending to him our generous hospitality, a part of that divinity would be passed onto us. This poster and the last frame of the film depicts this noble feeling in our classical dance form.

Please do come and share with us your divine knowledge and technology and spark in us your wisdom and understanding. It will indeed give us infinite satisfaction. Just as one candle lights another without loosing its own glow, may your presence in India, and exchange of your thoughts and ideas, illuminate our lives and enrich yours as well. With these sentiments sincerely felt and expressed, I, as a member of your Executive Committee, have the honour and privilege to invite you to India for the IABSE Congress in 1992. Please do not forget to bring your lady partner. Also kindly pass on this invitation to your friends who are not present here today. We shall await you with open arms and a welcome smile.

Goodbye and thank you for your attention.

