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## 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

Kiitoksia