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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.