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**Autor:** Koshi, Ninan

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## Welcome Address

Discours de bienvenue

Willkommensansprache

### **NINAN KOSHI**

Chairman, Organising Committee and  
Chairman,  
Indian National Group of IABSE  
NEW DELHI, India

1. Hon'ble Minister for Surface Transport, Mr. Tytler
2. President, IABSE, Prof. Von Gunten
3. Secretary, Ministry of Surface Transport, Mr. Abraham
4. Secretary, Department of Posts, Mr. S.P. Gulati
5. Secretary ING, Mr. S.P. Chakrabarti
6. Distinguished Guests, Delegates to the Congress, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a matter of great privilege and pleasure for me as Chairman of the Indian National Group and of the Organising Committee to extend a hearty welcome to all of you on the occasion of the inauguration of the 14th Congress of the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering.

It was a great moment for the Indian National Group when its bid to host the 14th Congress of the IABSE was accepted by the Parent Body in 1988. Since then we have been preparing for the Congress and we are extremely happy to see the culmination of our efforts today at this inauguration ceremony which is graced by so many distinguished guests and delegates from India and abroad.

The IABSE is the most reputed international body dealing with multi-disciplinary aspects of structural engineering. The Congress of the IABSE attended by a galaxy of leading luminaries of the bridge and structural engineering profession affords an unique opportunity for exchange of views at the professional level, cross fertilization of ideas and opening of new vistas.

India has a history of excellence in building structures dating back over many thousands of years. The many ancient monuments and edifices which can be seen even today bear witness to this magnificent structural heritage. They exemplify the theme of this Congress which is 'Civilisation through Civil Engineering' or the vital role of structures in the orderly growth of civilisation. I am sure many of our delegates from abroad who may be going on the post-Congress tours will get an opportunity of seeing some of these historic structures as well as some of the more modern structures which signify India's march towards progress and development.

In conclusion I wish to once again welcome and express my thanks to all our distinguished guests and especially to all the delegates who have come from far and wide to enrich and enliven the deliberations of this Congress with their valuable participation. We hope your discussion will be fruitful, that your stay will be comfortable and that you will carry back with you pleasant memories of this Congress, this historic city and this country.

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