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4. Quality Assurance within the Building Process Rigi, Switzerland, June 8-10, 1983

IABSE plans a 3-day workshop on Quality Assurance to be held in Rigi, Switzerland, from June 8 to 10, 1983.

The aim of the workshop is to take a rigorous approach at the concept of quality assurance of structures, as tentatively outlined in the "General Principles on Quality Assurance for Structures" compiled within the Joint Committee on Structural Safety (JCSS) and published by the IABSE. This requires on one hand an unrestricted preparedness to question and challenge prevailing quality assurance perceptions. On the other hand, such an approach requires deliberate discipline to avoid expanding into a conspicuous consumption of vague generalities. Specifically, the workshop intends to identify problems requiring — and allowing — an improved rational access and thus to initiate and focus future research activities.

Experts from civil or structural engineering but likewise from other industries and professions are invited to participate. To ensure a working atmosphere the workshop will meet at a secluded place and the number of participants is limited to a maximum of 90. The intention is to encourage lively discussions and a free exchange of ideas by initiating communication prior to the workshop meeting and thus limit the time necessary for lectures or presentations.

Five sessions are envisaged for which introductory notes will be distributed to the preliminarily registered participants in December 1982. The participants are asked to actively cooperate by written contributions within the scope of the introductory notes or supplementary to these notes for presentation at the workshop or as background information.

The workshop sessions will be arranged as plenary meetings followed by meetings in small groups entrusted with specific tasks. A résumé of the contributions, discussions and results will be published as a summarizing report.

Tentative Program

Session 1: Basic Consideration

- requirements to be fulfilled by structures
- problems associated with the definition of quality
- quality assurance — a sensible or senseless notion
- alternative concepts (mastering structural performance, minimizing troubles)
- aims (safety, serviceability, economy)

Session 2: Evaluation of Experience

- valuation of current structural damage costs (too high, too low)
- observed modes of inadequate structural performance
- identification of sources of inadequate performance (human error, organizational failure, unforeseeable deterioration)
- sensitivity or proneness of particular structures to errors
- prevailing measures and provisions (in codes, standard of practice) and their estimated efficacy
- feedback from experience

Session 3: Project Planning — Planning for Quality

- specification of expected structural performance (e.g. by utilization scenarios)
- methods for identifying probable causes and modes of adverse performance (e.g. by logic trees, hazard scenarios)
- identification of critical phases of construction, critical components
- planning of provisions and measures; possibilities for rationally assessing their efficacy
- interaction between measures; trade-off of measures

Session 4: Date Control, Supervision, and Checking

- self-control, internal control (office or shop checking), external control; acceptance control
- psychological effects
- cost-effectiveness of control and checking
- total and statistical control versus selective control
- supervision of special risks
- inspection and maintenance of structures

Session 5: Organization

- organization of planning and construction process and incorporation of quality assurance measures
- responsibilities, qualification, competence, duties
- strategies against human errors
- systems of contract (e.g. design and build contract or build-only contract)
- legal aspects; liability

More details:

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