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5. IABSE Working Commissions

At the very beginning of the Association in 1929, there were two Working Commissions, one dealing with steel structures and the other with concrete structures. A few years later, a third commission on the general problems common to the two existing Working Commissions was set up. These three Working Commissions lasted for a long time, but in a world of specialization, of new technologies and new problems it appeared that further Working Commissions were necessary.

At present, there are seven Working Commissions. They all work according to the by-laws and have the same procedure. That is, they meet at least once a year on the occasion of the IABSE Symposium. Their chairmen are elected for one term of four years while the other members of the Working Commissions are elected initially for four years and a possible second term. Membership in the Working Commission may not exceed 19 members including the chairman. Members are elected by the Executive Committee following nomination or

proposition by the Working Commissions themselves, or the national groups. Through the true international, qualified and collegial attitude of their members the Working Commissions make the following contributions:

- identification of current and future problems
- input to the scientific committees of IABSE conferences
- contribution or recommendation of papers to IABSE publications
- international and interassociation cooperation
- contribution to the continuing education of structural engineers.

The objective of the Working Commissions is to promote the international exchange of technical knowledge in their *fields of concern*, which are tentatively described below. It is evident that two or more commissions may be concerned with the same topics or projects. This overlap is unavoidable and in some cases even welcome.

Working Commission I

“Structural Performance, Safety and Analysis”

- Structural performance: serviceability, durability
- Actions on structures: climatic actions, earthquake force, traffic loading, collision loading, fire and explosion, soil-structure interaction
- Structural safety: failure or collapse under static or dynamic loading, quality assurance and inspection, risk assessment, reliability-based approach
- Structural analysis: modelling, analytical theory, methods of analysis

Working Commission II

“Steel, Metal and Timber Structures”

- Planning, design, analysis, construction, maintenance, repair and dismantling of civil engineering structures in steel, metal and timber (buildings, bridges, industrial structures, offshore structures, etc.)

Working Commission III

“Concrete Structures”

- Planning, design, analysis, construction, maintenance, repair and dismantling of reinforced and prestressed concrete structures (buildings, bridges, industrial structures, offshore structures, tunnels, retaining walls, hydraulic and utility structures, reservoirs, reactor-vessels, etc.)

Working Commission IV

“Construction Management”

- Management of resources and planning, construction and implementation of important

buildings and heavy construction projects and programmes

- Health and safety in construction
- Design and construction of temporary works

Working Commission V

“Design Methods and Processes”

- Design methods: selection and prescription of the elements of a structure involving creative work in integrating ideas in structural concepts leading to a synthesis of objectives, resources and environment
- Design process: rational and inter-personal processes within the tasks of design. Organization of the design process, decision making, communication and the feedback from successes or failures

Working Commission VI

“Informatics in Structural Engineering”

- Application of electronic data processing (informatics) to design, analysis, construction and maintenance of structures: computer aided management, computer aided design, quality assurance of structural computations, technical and legal responsibility of computer calculations

Working Commission VII

“Building Physics”

- Phenomena of heat and energy, moisture, air, quality acoustics, fire and daylight occurring in the interior of rooms, in buildings and structural components and in the environment of structures (physics in urban environment)