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2. 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 eight 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. The membership was shown in the last IABSE BULLETIN of May 1988. For each Working Commission, it 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. Nominations are expected before the end of 1988 for elections taking place in 1989.

Through the true international, qualified and collegial attitude of their members the Working Commissions make the following contributions in their fields of concern:

- worldwide forum for discussion and exchange of ideas and results
- 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.

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.

The following is a tentative summary of the reviewed objectives and working programmes of IABSE Working Commissions.

Working Commission I

«Structural Performance, Safety and Analysis»

(Chairman: M. Ito, Japan, 1987–1991)

Field of activity: structural performance under various actions, both man-made and environmental, methodology of structural analysis, assessment of design loads, problems related to structural safety and serviceability, for buildings, bridges and other civil engineering structures.

Working Commission II

«Steel, Timber and Composite Structures»

(Chairman: B. Edlund, Sweden, 1987–1991)

Field of activity: Load-carrying structures of steel, aluminium, wood and wood-based materials, as well as composite structure where these materials co-operate with other materials.

The field comprises all aspects of planning, design, analysis, erection, operation, and dismantling of such structures within Civil Engineering. Special attention is given to questions concerning efficient design and structural behaviour.

Working Commission III

«Concrete Structures»

(Chairman: J. Schlaich, FR Germany, 1985–1989)

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»

(Chairman: D. W. Quinion, UK, 1985–1989)

Field of activity:

- Value for money assessment of alternatives
- Budgetary control
- Estimating strategies
- Purchasing strategies
- Planning and programming
- Construction methods and temporary works
- Management, health and safety of people at work
- Quality management systems
- Influence on management decisions of contract conditions, insurance matters and litigation
- Construction plant development and utilisation strategies
- Educational, training and continuing professional development
- Use of management information systems

Working Commission V

«Design Methods and Processes»*(Chairman: R. Silman, USA, 1987–1991)*

Definition: Design methods include the techniques by which design elements and decisions are selected and designated in order to successfully satisfy the fundamental objectives of a stated problem. These methods involve creative work in integrating ideas in structural concepts so that a synthesis of objectives and resources is achieved. At the same time, a balancing of concerns for technology with those of aesthetics and the environment should be accomplished.

Design processes include all rational and inter-personal design activities necessary to accomplish the task defined by the nature of the design problem and, later, by the design. They deal with the organization of the decision-making process; the flow of communication, including the feedback from success and failure; and the training of engineers as designers.

Working Commission VI

«Computer Assisted Analysis, Design and Construction»*(Chairman: A. G. Frandsen, Denmark, 1985–1989)*

Definition and field of activity: Information technology has a strong influence on all phases of the development of structures and buildings: from primary analysis and planning through design and construction until operation and maintenance. The activity of WCVI has to deal with the integration of the phases of planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance, by the aid of information processing and communication technology.

The subfields of activity are:

- Total concept of computer integrated construction
- Computer aided design
- Information interfaces
- Conceptual modelling systematic of buildings
- Data bases
- Expert systems
- Computer aided manufacturing
- Interaction and interface between the processes of design and automated manufacturing
- Computer aided production planning and control
- Computer aided education

Working Commission VII

«Building Physics»*(Chairman: E. Czielski, Berlin, 1987–1991)*

Definition: Building physics treats the problem of thermal comfort, heat and moisture transport, airflow, ventilation, energy (heating and cooling), daylight, sound insulation, acoustics and fire protection.

Building physics must be applied to buildings as a whole and building components, but also to any other engineering structures where parts divide different climates.

Building physics gives informations in the design process, for the selection of material, for the construction, the quality assurance, for maintenance and retrofit.

Building physics affects the performance and behaviour of structures.

Working Commission VIII

«Operation, Maintenance and Repair of Structures»*(Chairman: H. H. Gotfredsen, Denmark, 1987–1991)*

Field of activity: All aspects of structural problems from final completion to and including demolition of structures.

Structural problems arising directly from decay and deterioration and their possible solution such as maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, strengthening and replacement.

Structural analysis of existing structures and the development of relevant reliability models and theories covering such analyses.

Changes in the loading patterns after completion of a structure require careful consideration and possible reevaluation of structure.