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Short course on Durability of Structures

Some thirty participants from seven European and seven overseas countries attended the first Short Course organised by IABSE in Lisbon on September 4th and 5th, 1989. The lectures which were in English were presented by Professors Júlio Appleton from Portugal, Harold Roper from Australia, and Steen Rostam from Denmark. Professor Rostam acted as the Course Director and co-ordinated the lectures, practical demonstrations and workshop all of which formed parts of the course.

The topics covered during the lectures were wide-ranging and included aspects of the causes and mechanisms of degradation of concrete and steel under structural service conditions. Following this, procedures for dealing with the problems were considered. These procedures included the methods and apparatus available for investigating degrading structural members, and several of these were displayed during the practical demonstration period held in the Laboratory of the LNEC. Methods of crack repair and surface treatment of concrete were considered during lectures.

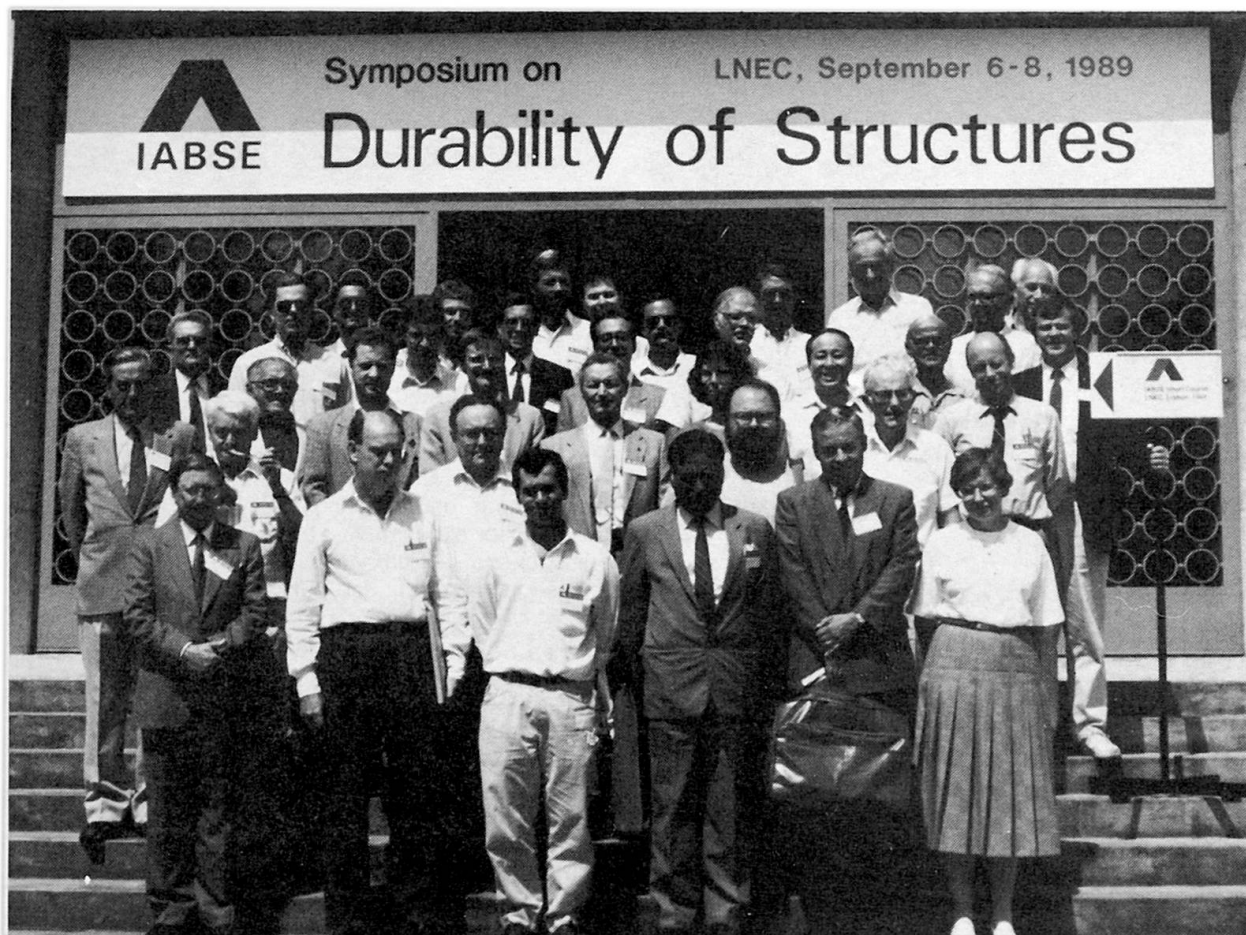
All the participants were invited to contribute to the discussion with case studies, and the lectures were kept

busy in an interesting and enlightening exchange of views. The active involvement of participants was noted by a large majority of the registrants as good.

Of the twenty-four persons who presented written assessments of the course, twenty-two considered it excellent, very good or good, two considered it satisfactory and none replied that it was not of value to them. The lecturers considered that the standard of knowledge that the participants brought to the course was of great value in discussions.

In future, such short courses may benefit if their scope is less wide, and if the documentation, on the other hand, is expanded, since the participants in such courses obviously cannot instantly absorb and appreciate all the details of what is presented at the time, and references are needed. What was carried away by the participants in this Course was a greater understanding of the complex problems facing the Structural Engineer in dealing with durability of both steel and concrete structural members and a background of methods to deal with these when they appear.

Harold Roper, Sydney



The participants of the first Short course organised by IABSE