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Wishes and hopes for 1989

At the turn of a calendar year, many of us make resolutions on what the following year is going to be – or how it should be. 1989 should be a very important year for our sixty years' old Association.

Under the guidance of President von Gunten, the Executive Committee and its Subcommittee (MM Brainov, Bulgaria; Macchi, Italy; Maeda, Japan; Subba Rao, India), has been working for the first time on defining a **Long Range Plan** for the IABSE. Other leaders of IABSE and members of its Permanent Committee have been involved since 1987 in this process with interviews, surveys, and advice on working documents. A professional counsel did assist us in developing this study. The objective is to present a report to the Permanent Committee in Lisbon in September 1989.

In this issue of IABSE PERIODICA you will find a report on characteristics and attitudes of the IABSE membership. The report may be a bit «dry» to read, but it contains a wealth of information and suggestions, useful for guiding us in the future. Members are urgently invited to send us their Comments and suggestions on the IABSE PROCEEDINGS P-134/89.

Without awaiting the results of a final Plan – which in fact will never be final as it will need regular reviewing – one among the many ideas considered for future activities will be implemented in 1989: the **Short Course**. To even better benefit from the human resources available at the time of a conference, and to offer an opportunity to some IABSE members – who are not yet familiar with the conference theme – to get a basic understanding for the subject, two «pilot short courses» will be organized before the Symposium in Lisbon and the Workshop in Bergamo (refer also to pages 4 and 5 of this Bulletin). The experiences gained on these occasions will show us a possible way to better serve the membership and the profession.

Inter-association co-operation seems to receive more attention. A sign in this direction is the appreciatory co-sponsorship of CEB (Comité Euro-International du Béton), ECCS (European Convention for Constructional Steelwork), FIP (Fédération Internationale de la Précontrainte), IASS (International Association for Shell and Spatial Structures) for the next IABSE Symposium in Lisbon on «Durability of Structures».

Professor Lacroix, Honorary President of FIP and of the «Association Française pour la Construction» has asked in his article in the last Bulletin (B-47/88), if the big civil engineering associations were getting closer. He was concluding that «all that is needed is a little goodwill shared by all parties concerned». Prof. Lacroix has proven through his very own initiative that his proposal can be turned into reality: the «Association Française pour la Construction» is a conglomerate of the French members of the former CEB, FIP and IABSE groups in France.

The goodwill for closer co-operation seems to reawaken in 1989. We should not miss this chance! Members are solicited from various international associations on similar subjects: they have expressed clearly that their time and money cannot be spent two, three or more times on the same subject/event/committee/etc. Their statement is an evident indication for us to turn the nineties into the years of a much closer co-operation.

Alain Golay
Executive Director