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Autor: Oberti, Guido

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IABSE (International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering)
ISMES (Istituto Sperimentale Modelli E Strutture)

Seminar on

CONSTRUCTIONS IN SEISMIC ZONES

Bergamo-Udine (Italy), 10th-13th May, 1978

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

May I on behalf of ISMES and the Italian Delegation of IABSE extend a warm and hearty welcome to all participants in this International Meeting.

Your presence here today is by itself an indication that the essential purpose of this Seminar has been achieved - that is, of course, to bring together and encourage contact and dialogue between scientists and engineers in the field of constructions in seismic zones, coming from various parts of the world.

As all of us are fully aware, the importance of the discussions we shall be holding in the next few days, is obvious: the ruinous impact of natural catastrophes - among which earthquakes may be deemed to be one of the most terrible - on the human community, be it in terms of the number of lives lost or the damage to the social and economic structures.

As such, no stone should be left unturned when looking into all the various opportunities offered us, as much by modern theoretical knowledge as by the most up-to-date technical applications - so as to ensure greater familiarity with seismic actions as well as the greater safety of buildings if they are to support such phenomena.

To this end, over and above theoretical investigations and laboratory testing (which anyway are always meant to improve operational techniques), your contributions to this Seminar will be dealing directly with technical and practical aspects in connection with the constructions, repair and efficiency of structures in seismic areas.

With the earnest hope that the work done in the coming days will be of the utmost interest not only for those present but also for all those who live and work in areas subject to earthquakes, I have the greatest pleasure in declaring this Seminar open.

Prof. Guido Oberti
President, ISMES

Bergamo, May 10, 1978

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