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PREFACE

Contributions to this Colloquium Report reflect the difficulty to develop big projects, unless they have the full approval of the neighbouring communities.

Examples presented concern megalopolis, historical sites or even low-inhabited areas, the environment of which might undergo a dramatic change as a result of unpredictable developments. These being related to the construction and/or operation of large-scale projects deemed useful to the society.

By virtue of this Report, the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering hopes to focus the attention of the designer and contractor, as well as the owner, on the necessity of protecting the environment for the benefit of future generations. I am convinced that our members, bridge and structural engineers, will be able to respond to this new challenge, whilst carrying out their original tasks.

This is the first time that an IABSE conference has been devoted to the interaction between structural engineering and the environment, and I know that a lot will be learnt from these proceedings. I trust also that their recommendations will be applied. Bridge and structural engineers must become aware of their responsibility towards Society and the Environment.

I am very grateful to the Danish Group of IABSE and its Chairman, Mr. Aksel G. Frandsen, for having chosen the topic of the Colloquium and for having organized it on the shore of the Great Belt, one of the major engineering projects at the end of this millennium.

Prof. Hans von Gunten
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