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### **Vorwort**

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## **Preface**

The management of existing highways and railways is of ever increasing importance as structures become older and budgets become tighter. The evaluation and maintenance of existing structures is therefore now a major civil engineering task. Thus, the development of efficient methods for facilitating this task is much needed and must be based on relevant research. This Workshop focuses on the evaluation of existing steel and composite bridges by creating an international forum for the presentation and discussion of innovative ideas and recent advances in this field. The primary aim of the Workshop is to identify promising scientific work and promote evaluation methods which could become suitable for use in practice.

This Report contains the papers presented and discussed at the Workshop by engineers from research and practice. The papers are organised into the following themes, representing the six sessions of the Workshop :

- Basis of evaluation
- Planning and inspection
- Model updating
- Site measurement
- Fatigue testing
- Fatigue assessment

We hope that the Workshop and Report contribute to the development of efficient methods for the evaluation of existing steel and composite bridges and aid the transfer of these methods from research to practice. The idea for the Workshop originated at the Institute for Steel Structures (ICOM), Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, and was organised within the framework of, and with the support of IABSE. I would like to thank in particular Dr. S. F. Bailey, who organised the Workshop with the staff of ICOM, as well as the members of the Scientific Committee, Prof. J. R. Casas (Spain), Prof. D. M. Frangopol (USA), Prof. U. Kuhlmann (Germany) and Prof. K. Yamada (Japan).

Lausanne, March 1997

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