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IABSE Colloquium "Tunnel Structures 1998"

The name of IABSE suggest that bridges and structural engineering are the main topics of interest. This is quite true when you consider the theme of the events organized worldwide by IABSE . In the same way the ITA is concerned with international exchange of knowledge about Tunnels.

Nevertheless tunnels just as bridges overcome obstacles for traffic of any nature. Tunnels are increasingly important for public transport in cities and underneath waterways. They are being constructed in areas where traditional bored tunneling is not possible or not the optimum solution.

This means that not only traditional knowledge of rock and softground tunneling is required for design and construction of tunnels. Immersed tunnels, Cut and cover tunnels and a wide variety of new and alternative methods of tunneling require an up to date knowledge of structural engineering, risk analysis, impact of construction methods, environmental considerations and aspects of maintenance and repair. All of this should sound familiar to the structural engineer of the turn of the century. These themes are frequently the subject of IABSE events.

It is a beneficial fact that the Swedish Group of IABSE took the opportunity to link an ITA conference in Stockholm with this IABSE colloquium.

For tunnels Scandinavia is an interesting place to visit now. Great works from which people and engineers have been dreaming for centuries, like the Great Belt tunnel, linking Denmark with a fixed connection and the Öresundtunnel, connecting Denmark with Sweden, are being realized here around. Many others as the sessions on current and planned projects of this colloquium will follow.

The response on the call for papers for this colloquium, issued in autumn 1996 has been great. The scientific committee has tried to make an interesting selection for the participants. We hope that the participants of the colloquium, in the end, will agree that this is true.

Prof. Ir Charles .J. Vos

Chairman of the scientific committee