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Autor: Fukumoto, Yuhshi

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Preface

Ever taller buildings and ever longer bridges: these have been enduring challenges for structural engineering since ancient times. Today, and in the foreseeable future, structural engineers must continue to confront the limits of size, not out of a wish to set records, but to meet the real needs of society while minimising negative environmental impacts.

In recognition of the Spring 1998 opening of the Akashi-Kaikyo Bridge – the world's longest suspension bridge, with a centre span of 1991 meters – the 1998 IABSE Kobe Symposium is organised under the title "Long-Span and High-Rise Structures". The Symposium also is an opportunity to observe the dramatic reconstruction accomplishments in the Kobe region since the devastating earthquake of January 1995.

The presentations at the Symposium will focus on:

- The Honshu-Shikoku Bridges
- Other Long-Span Bridges
- High-Rise Buildings and Towers
- Long-Span Roofs

More than 300 abstracts were submitted and this Symposium Report contains the 170 papers and posters accepted for publication by the international Scientific Committee.

This Report presents the state-of-the-art of various aspects of the design and construction of long-span bridges and roof structures and high-rise buildings. Contributions cover innovative designs and structural materials, environmental issues, analytical and experimental assessment methods, all backed up by relevant case studies. The themes of the Symposium have been highlighted in eight Keynote Lectures, two at each of the four Plenary Sessions, that are also contained in the Report.

We hope, and we have made every effort to assure, that the IABSE Symposium in Kobe, 1998, will be a rich opportunity for the exchange of knowledge and experience among structural engineers from around the world.

In closing, I would like to express the appreciation of the Scientific Committee to the authors for their generous efforts in preparing their papers and posters. And finally, I would also gratefully acknowledge the work of the Scientific Committee members, who carefully reviewed all submissions and selected the papers and posters that make this Symposium Report such an excellent source of engineering knowledge.

Kobe, September 1998

Yuhshi Fukumoto
Chairman, Scientific Committee