

Structural concrete in the developing world

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2. Structural Concrete in the Developing World

Impressions of the FIP Congress in New Delhi, 16–20 February, 1986

For its 10th Congress, FIP decided for the second time only, to go out of Europe (the first Congress held out of Europe was in New York, 1974). Organized by the Institution of Engineers (India), the FIP Congress was held in New Delhi, India, February 16 to 20, 1986. About 2000 participants joined the different sessions of the Congress, 1500 came from the host country, 70 from other Asian countries, 360 from Europe and 70 from Africa, America and Australia. From the number of participants alone, the Congress was a great success, especially due to the very good attendance of all participants of the technical sessions. The Congress programme aimed at giving an overview and allowing an exchange of recent experiences, worldwide, in developments in the application of prestressing to concrete and mixed structures.

Three volumes of Proceedings were remitted to the participants, who had a written basis for the different lectures they wanted to attend. In addition to presentations in the Main Hall, parallel sessions were run on more specific subjects, and in particular FIP technical commissions reported on their activities: these meetings were also very well attended. Poster sessions were run for the first time at an FIP Congress and proved to be very well attended and appreciated sessions. New sessions were conducted on the «FIP recommendations on practical design», «guidelines on design and detailing», as well as «partial prestressing»: they were conducted in the form of «teach-in» sessions, which also proved to be very successful.

Technical literature was available to support the programme of the Congress. As usual at FIP Congresses, most of the national groups had prepared very well documented brochures presenting the developments in prestressed concrete in their countries over the last four years, i.e. since the last FIP Congress.

A profitable panel discussion was organized on the theme «Interaction between Developing and Developed Countries for Project Implementation» on the evening of the first Congress day. A short report and impressions are given on page 25.

An exhibition of technical literature was available and much visited by the participants. The commercial exhibition was also a very valuable part of the Congress as it showed actual completed projects and examples of prestressing systems from various countries. The information available at the stands was very much appreciated.

The Congress was held in a big hotel in New Delhi and the local arrangements were very satisfactory. The local organizing committee, with the help of numerous voluntary engineers and staff, contributed with efficiency and friendliness to the big technical and social success of the Congress. The different social events held in the gardens of the hotel were very colourful and friendly. The few who had the chance to ride on the elephant's back will certainly never forget such an experience. The many foreigners who had the opportunity to try Indian food, non-vegetarian food, and to enjoy Indian dancing and music will remember this Congress as an exceptional event.

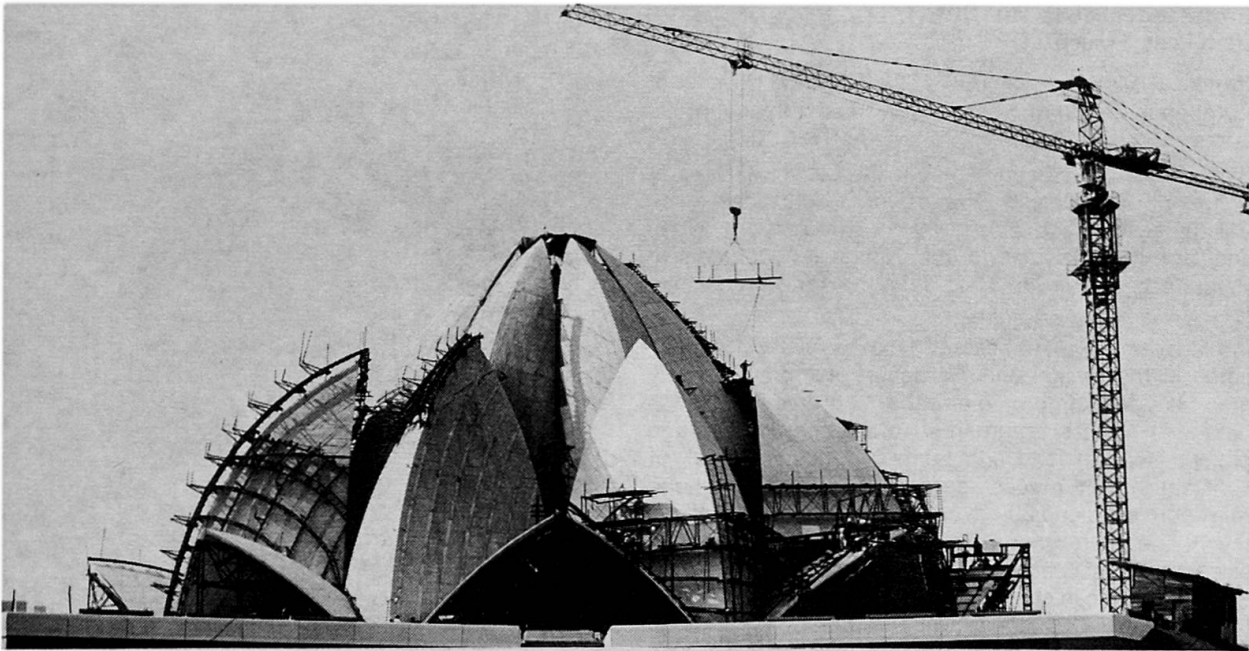
It was a perfect occasion for the participants to meet again and make new contacts and friendships.

Visiting Delhi, as certainly also the post-congress tours, must have been enlightful experiences for the participants. From the organizational point of view, the organizing committee as well as our colleagues from the FIP committees deserve our congratulations for this most successful congress. If one wished to learn something from the experience, one could ask if simultaneous translation was the right thing to provide in Delhi. 500 earphones were available to the participants as the official languages were English, French, German and Russian, although speakers were allowed to use English only. For the first technical session of the Congress, 70 earphones were used. For the last technical session which was also very well attended, only 7 earphones were used. It is certainly worth questioning if all the troubles of providing simultaneous translation was justified, considering the small use made of it by the participants.

As for any meeting, including IABSE's, there are plenty of little details which do not work. Most of them are trivial and go unnoticed by the participants. As an outsider, however, who thinks he has a keen eye for such details, I would like to congratulate for the big success of the Congress on «Structural Concrete in the Developing World» in New Delhi, February 1986, the FIP and the Indian Organizing Committee supported by the Institution of Engineers (India), and their many voluntary and friendly staff.

Alain Golay
Executive Director, IABSE

P.S.: This FIP Congress was also an opportunity to visit with the Indian National Group of IABSE which counts among the most active in our Association. The group is in fact the fourth biggest one. The next Bulletin will present more information and news on the Indian National Group of IABSE.



The lotus flower provided the inspiration for the design of the Baha'i House of Worship in New Delhi, under construction at the time of the FIP Congress. The building is a white concrete shell structure with jointless exposed concrete shells. It is clad with marble.

3. Honours Presented to Outstanding Engineers

At the Opening Ceremony of the FIP 10th Congress in New Delhi, 16 February 1986, Dr. Hans Wittfoht, President of FIP, presented honours to outstanding engineers. We would like to congratulate all recipients of these honours, whom we have also the pleasure to count among the IABSE Members.

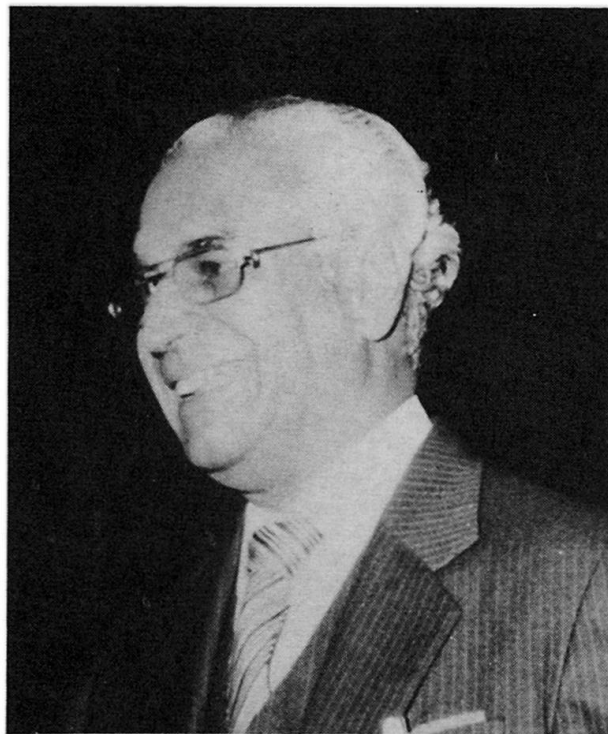
FIP Medal

The *FIP Medal* is awarded for outstanding achievement in the area of prestressed concrete (research, lecturing, design, construction and for active participation in the Federation's organisations).

Tippur Narayanarao SUBBA RAO from Bombay, India

Mr. Subba Rao studied in Mysore (India) and joined Gammon India Limited as a Structural Design Engineer in 1950, where he rose to become its first Indian Managing Director in 1973. He has steered the Company in the Planning, Design and Project Management of diverse Civil and Mechanical Engineering projects in which the Company has specialised over the last 60 years. A large number of Bridges, Tunnels, Dams, Energy Projects, Harbour Works, Industrial, Public Health and Hydraulic Structures, as well as others bear record to his work both as a Structural Design Engineer and Specialist Contractor.

Presently, Mr. Subba Rao is President of the Builders' Association of India, and the Indian Concrete Institute; Vice-Chairman of the Overseas Construction Council of India; Member of the Bridges Committee of the Indian Roads Congress, and the FIP Commission on Practical Construction. Mr. Subba Rao is also a Member of the Executive Committee of IABSE.



T.N. Subba Rao