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Autor: Takeshita, Noboru

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Address by the Minister of Construction

Allocution par le Ministre de la Construction

Ansprache des Bauministers

NOBORU TAKESHITA
Minister of Construction
Japan

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a great honor for me to have been accorded this opportunity, in my capacity as Minister of Construction of the host country, to address the participants from numerous countries at the 10th Congress of the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering.

The contributions made by your association over the last 50 years toward the progress and development of the science of structural engineering merit the greatest commendation. It is a particular pleasure for me, as a representative in the administration of construction activities, to note that this congress, held every four years, should have chosen Japan for its 10th meeting.

As you are well aware, our country supports a large population on narrow, mountainous territory, often afflicted by typhoons and earthquakes.

In spite of these unfavorable natural conditions, we have succeeded in overcoming various obstacles in the construction of high-rise buildings, long-span bridges and other structures.

In order to achieve effective use of our limited land area and, also, in order to improve the social welfare of our people, we are faced with the need to further pursue our construction efforts.

To accomplish this, we look forward to the further progress in basic technologies and, in particular, in research and development in the field of structural engineering.

I deem it, therefore, highly significant that this congress, bringing together authorities and experts in this field, have been convened here today. I wish to extend to all of you the warmest welcome and, at the same time, to express my profound interest in the results of this meeting.

I have been informed that in addition to the technical sessions, a varied program of study tours and entertainment has been arranged so that you may better understand Japan. It is my sincere hope that you will not only learn much about present conditions

in our country, but will also reap a rich harvest of pleasant memories.

In closing, I wish to express my deep respect to the president of your association and to the president of the Japanese Organizing Committee for this Congress and to their associates for their untiring efforts to bring about this meeting, which I fervently hope will be most successful and fruitful. I also wish your association continued success and development.

Thank you.