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Closing Speech

Discours final

Schlussansprache

Bruno THÜRLIMANN

President of IABSE

Zurich, Switzerland

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This then brings us the end of our 12th Congress of IABSE. The idea to hold this Congress in Canada, originated of all places in Austin, Texas.

Roger Green, Professor at Waterloo University, Ontario, and I were visiting professors in the fall of 1978 at the University of Texas. We developed the first ideas and Roger made the first contacts to the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering and, in particular, to Prof. Peter Wright. I would like to express to Roger my sincere thanks for his initial idea and help and for his continuing support. Many persons and organizations have been involved in making this Congress a success.

I have pleasure to announce that the Executive Committee of IABSE decided to confer Honorary Membership to Prof. P.F. Adams and Dr. R.A. Dorton, in recognition to the eminent services rendered to the Association on the occasion of the 12th Congress of IABSE.

Our further thanks go to the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering represented here by Prof. Saeed Mirza, Senior Vice President.

Prof. Lipson and his local staff deserve our thanks for the well functioning local arrangements.

The success of a Congress is firstly measured by its technical programme. I would like to thank the General Reporters who have set the guidelines in the Introductory Report. Our sincere appreciation goes to the various Speakers from all parts of the world for their effort to prepare a contribution and present it to us. We are all looking forward to studying in more detail their written contributions in the Final Report.

The Session Chairmen, coming from so many countries, showed the worldwide connections of our Association. I am deeply grateful to them as well as to the Coordinators, who so ably conducted the sessions.

Mr. Roger Stilwell deserves a special mention. He was responsible for the Poster Session which, in my opinion, developed into a real forum for establishing personal professional contacts.

Let me also express my thanks to our own staff in particular to Miss Brand and our Executive Director Mr. Golay. Through his experience, his dedication as well as through his attention to details, IABSE can operate under the varying situations and conditions in the different countries.



Ladies and Gentlemen,

A Congress also needs a receptive and well-informed audience. We are very grateful that you responded in such a great number to our invitation to come to Vancouver. I am sure that Prof. Adams joins me in expressing our sincere gratitude.

We had the opportunity to introduce our Association to many participants attending an IABSE Congress for the first time. We hope they found a high professional standard with a truly international scope as well as a congenial and friendly atmosphere. We would be very pleased if this experience would encourage them to join our Association as members and participate actively in its activities.

Finally, let us take a look into the future. Our thanks go to our Finnish friends and their Chairman Mr. Widbom for their invitation to hold the 13th Congress in 1988 in Helsinki. They have expressed their invitation in such a cordial and attractive way that we just cannot miss the next Congress. We are all looking forward to meeting again in Helsinki.

In concluding I wish all of you some additional pleasant days here in Vancouver and Canada. I wish you also a safe and happy return to your home country.

Good-bye
Bon voyage
Glückliche Heimkehr
Sayonara
Näkemiin Helsingissä (see you all in Helsinki)