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Preface

Bridge Engineering has undergone fast-paced technological development in the decades gone by. Alongside, pressures have also been mounting on the existing road infrastructure due to heavy traffic volumes leading to urgency of increased large-scale transport infrastructure warranting our bridge engineers to intensify their efforts in design and implementation of bridges with larger and larger spans.

Modern bridges demand compatible, durable, sustainable and cost-effective foundations that blend effectively with the type of superstructure and substructure; hence a thorough understanding of structural concepts, innovative construction methods and techniques, hydrology/hydraulics, geology/geo-technical, environmental and ecological parameters on the part of bridge engineers assume significance to keep pace with the advancements in the field world wide.

A number of bridges are being built in different parts of the Indian Sub-continent and the foundation systems being adopted, particularly with regard to bridges on alluvial deposits, are caissons with limited application of pile foundations.

The New Delhi Colloquium on “Foundations for Major Bridges” has been organised to know about and understand the current practices being followed and to benefit from the experience of engineering experts of eminence from world over.

The main theme of the Colloquium has been sub-divided into different sub-heads to address the critical aspects affecting the design/implementation of bridge foundations. Considering the overwhelming response of the experts, the sessions for the subject themes have been adjusted to accommodate presentations by as many authors as possible. In the seven sessions so organised, the papers on similar themes have been grouped together in sessions-specific for effective and exciting interaction and exchange of views amongst the participants.

On behalf of the Scientific Committee, I take this opportunity to convey my sincere thanks to the authors for providing this unique opportunity to the participating delegates to share with and benefit from their expert knowledge and experience. I would also like to record my feelings of extreme happiness and satisfaction for the dedicated efforts put in by the members of the Scientific Committee and Mr SP Chakraborty, Mr A Chakrabarti, Mr Krishan Kant, Mr BC Roy as also the Organising Committee, chaired by Mr Prafulla Kumar, to make this Colloquium a success, notwithstanding the commendable efforts of ING-IABSE members and other committees/associates who have worked relentlessly all through.

New Delhi
February, 1999

SS Chakraborty
Chairman, Scientific Committee

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