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Closing Speech

Discours final

Schlussansprache

Hans von GUNTEN

President of IABSE

Zurich, Switzerland

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Colleagues,

After some pleasant and very agreeable days in Helsinki it is time to bid farewell. We just heard of the positive scientific results so I can concentrate on the "environment" of the Congress. We are all overwhelmed by the Finnish hospitality, and we are all charmed by the magnificent natural landscapes and the long northern days. We have all enjoyed the beauties of the modern Finnish architecture, which is unique and exemplary and surrounded us every day right here. We learned about the nature of the Finnish people and with certainty we have come to like and admire it. We will return to our everyday life with many agreeable memories and will certainly remember the days in Helsinki.

For all these experiences I would like to express my sincerest thanks. My first and special thanks go to the organizers of this Congress, who have devoted all their energies for a successful outcome. I also thank the Finnish Group of the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering and all professional organizations that supported this event. Further I would like to thank the City of Helsinki for their hospitality and Finland, which offered such a beautiful setting for our Congress.

In a few moments we will receive the invitation for the next Congress in New Delhi in four years time. Of course I hope to see you all again in New Delhi, but my next rendez-vous with you will be next year in Lisbon. I count on your continuing loyalty for the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering, and hope that our Association may develop further. I hope you will enjoy the remaining hours or days in Finland and have a good journey back in your country. With all my best wishes to you.