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News from IABSE Headquarters and Secretariat

Committee meetings

Since its inception in 1975, the Technical Committee has met regularly twice a year, the first meeting being naturally at the IABSE Annual Meeting – the next one is in Lisbon from 4 to 6 September 1989, i.e. prior to the Symposium –, the second meeting is usually in Zurich in March. It has become a custom, which has advantages for other committees and groups, which like to meet on this occasion: saving travel time and money for the participants and giving them a chance to meet other active IABSE Committee members.

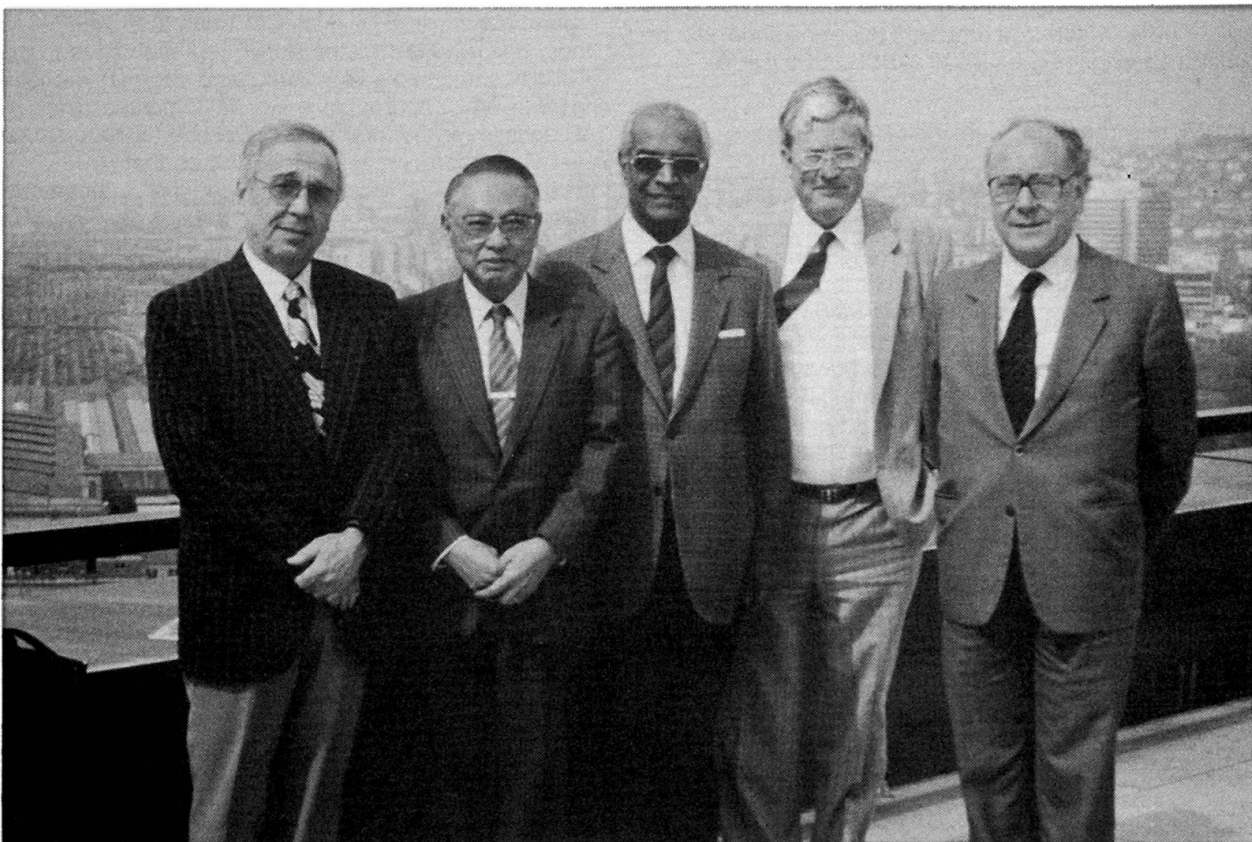
Let us take this opportunity to underline that all Committee members of IABSE do attend meetings at their costs, and that IABSE neither pays nor reimburses any such expenses. We are quite sure that the IABSE membership will appreciate the work and the dedication of these volunteers.

The **Technical Committee**, chaired by Professor Y. Maeda, Osaka for the period 1987-1991, met for a full day on March 31, 1989, and was mostly involved with evaluating the recent IABSE Congress and conferences, and with coordinating the forthcoming ones, guiding in particular their scientific committees. Work has already started for the next Congress in New Delhi, and Dr. T. N.

Subba Rao, Bombay was elected Chairman of the Scientific Committee. The Technical Committee, which is also coordinating the other activities of the Working Commissions, reviewed the nominations for the different positions in IABSE committees, as elections will take place in Lisbon next September. Time was short – as very often, unfortunately – for discussing technical matters, but some views were exchanged on the continuing education programme that IABSE attempts to develop, within its Long Range Planning, or on the contribution of IABSE to the forthcoming International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

The **Scientific Committee** for the Symposium in **Lisbon**, chaired by Mr. H.-H. Gotfredsen, Copenhagen, met to select the contributions to be presented at the Symposium, and finalized the technical programme of the Symposium.

A delegation from the **Soviet Group of IABSE** chaired by Mr. V. Alekseev, Deputy Minister in Moscow, and with MM. N.N. Streletzki, I.F. Tsarikowsky and E.F. Makarenkov met with Prof. H. von Gunten, President of IABSE and other Officers of IABSE, to finalize the arrangements for the 1991 Symposium of IABSE in Leningrad. The first meeting of the Scientific Committee will be held in Lisbon in September 1989.



Subcommittee Meeting, Zurich, April 3, 1989.

From left to right: MM. M. Brainov, Bulgaria; Y. Maeda, Japan; T.N. Subba Rao, India; J. Schneider, Switzerland; and G. Macchi, Italy (not shown on the picture: R. Fechtig)



A **Subcommittee of the Executive Committee**, chaired by Prof. J. Schneider, Zurich, worked further on the Long Range Planning, which will be presented to the Permanent Committee in Lisbon. The Subcommittee reviewed the Mission Statement for IABSE, defining the fields of interest of the Association – this should not bring any important change for IABSE –. Although neither finalized nor accepted yet, the Long Range Plan should not be a revolution but an evolution and a welcome development of the present situation: new projects and improvement of present services and programmes. A consequence of this Plan, and also of earlier discussions and surveys with the membership will be some changes in the by-laws, making IABSE even more international and receptive to new initiatives. More about this at the meetings in Lisbon!

Two Working Commissions had also scheduled an extra meeting in Zurich at the end of March 1989.

WC VI "Computer Assisted Analysis, Design and Construction" chaired by Mr. A.G. Frandsen, Copenhagen, had its half-yearly meeting dealing mainly with the preparation of the Colloquium in Bergamo, 18–20 October 1989, on "Expert Systems in Civil Engineering".

WC II "Steel, Timber and Composite Structures", chaired by Prof. B. Edlund, Goeteborg, was certainly the luckiest among all previously mentioned committees, as they really could conduct a full technical meeting. The group had a workshop on "Serviceability Limit States for Steel Buildings". It was attended by some twenty very studious specialists meeting on the whole of the Saturday. Some of the outcomes of this workshop will be published in coming issues of IABSE PERIODICA.

IABSE membership

Looking at the Membership statement per March 31, 1989 (page 15 of this IABSE BULLETIN), one will note a very small increase in the number of members in IABSE (45) during one year. In fact, some 250 new members joined the Association during 1988, but some 200 left the Association for one of the following reasons: retirement or change of professional interests, inability to pay the membership fees, address unknown. A number of IABSE Members passed away during 1988 and their memories will be honoured during the next meeting of the Permanent Committee. Let us mention some of the outstanding members who passed away in recent months:

- L.P. Sikkel, Eindhoven (in December 1988)
- U. Finsterwalder, Munich (in December 1988)
- N. Esquillan, Paris (in January 1989)
- K. Muto, Tokyo (in March 1989)
- ...

The new Membership List 1989 has just been issued and mailed to all members. As the best way to get new members is enthusiasm and recommendation of present members, peruse the List! state whom among your friends and professional colleagues should be on the List but do not appear on it! and invite them to join. A leaflet is enclosed for that purpose with this Bulletin; others are available at the Secretariat or at your National Groups. There is a great potential in IABSE membership, and it is our duty and your opportunity to realize it.

Activities of the Executive Director

I had the privilege to make a trip to the USA in mid-April 1989 to meet in San Francisco, CA, the new leadership of the USA Group of our Association: MM. L.A. Wyllie, Jr., Chairman and F.C. Filippou, Secretary. Both gentlemen have succeeded MM. G.F. Fox and F. Sterbenz, who resigned last year, after a number of successful years at the head of the USA Group, highlighted by the Symposium in Washington, DC, in 1982. We had the opportunity of talking about the organization of the National Group, as it is a peculiarity of IABSE that its national groups are all organized differently.

I also had the privilege to meet, in New York, NY, Dr. E. Pfrang, Executive Director of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). Also both societies – ASCE and IABSE – are quite different in size (100 000 members vs 3 000; 170 staff employees vs 7; 20M\$ turnover vs 0.5 M\$), there are a few objectives in common. This was a unique opportunity for exchanging information and ideas. There may also be a great potential for developing a closer co-operation with national societies, in the same spirit as with our sister societies in the international structural engineering community (refer to B-48/89).

This stopover in New York enabled me to attend the opening of the SSRC Colloquium "Code Differences around the World" managed by Prof. L.S. Beedle: a good opportunity for over hundred participants to review this dynamic international situation in code making – and a chance to see many IABSE members and friends –.

Together with Mr. R. Silman, Chairman of IABSE WC V, New York, who is also the IABSE representative to the UN bodies, we had a very useful and informative meeting with Mr. Ph. Boullé, a Senior Officer of the UN responsible for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction: we have good hopes that IABSE will make substantial contributions to the International Decade.

IABSE Secretariat

The last months have seen a few changes in the Secretariat, including the installation of a new computer system.

I know that with our new staff

Ms Evelyn Roth, Secretary to the Executive Director
Ms Claudia Gründler, Editor (a new position)
Ms Hedwig Schmid, Bookkeeper

and our longer-serving staff

Ms Gertrud Schamberger, Office Employee and
Ms Christine Rahn, Junior Secretary,

we shall be able to serve you to the best of our ability, in the interest of IABSE and of the profession.

Do not hesitate to send us any comments or suggestions: we shall be glad to have a feedback.

Alain Golay
Executive Director