

Zeitschrift: IABSE bulletin = Bulletin AIPC = IVBH Bulletin
Band: 14 (1990)
Heft: B-55: IABSE bulletin

Vereinsnachrichten: The interaction between major engineering structures and the marine environment: IABSE colloquium, Nyborg, DK, 27-29 May, 1991

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The Interaction between Major Engineering Structures and the Marine Environment

IABSE Colloquium, Nyborg, DK, 27 – 29 May, 1991

Introduction

The construction and operation of a major engineering structure, such as an airfield, road, railway, bridge, tunnel, harbour, dam, canal etc. creates changes in the existing environment, not only at the site of the structure, but sometimes also at a considerable distance from it.

With the awareness of the fact that changes in the environment from man made structures may endanger valuable natural resources, public opinion often, rightfully, demands extensive environmental documentation in connection with the planning and design of major structures. The outcome of such investigations often influences the choice between different solutions – including dismissing the intended structure.

Although seemingly obvious, the above considerations were scarcely in the picture when preparing and constructing major structures 30 years ago, and in some parts of the world environmental considerations still have a low priority in their planning and design.

One of IABSE's most important tasks as an international professional organisation is to be on constant alert to new challenges for the structural engineer and to respond promptly and professionally to such challenges. Environmental concern has become an overwhelming factor in all aspects of contemporary life. It is of major importance that this concern is dealt with in a proper manner by neither ignoring the problems nor overdoing them. The right balance requires knowledge and expertise – and IABSE must do its utmost to enable its members to meet this requirement.

The scope of the colloquium is to introduce an important parameter, environmental impacts related to marine structures, both off-shore and coastal structures, to the planner, the decision maker, the client, the consulting engineer, the contractor, in short: The Structural Engineer. This should enable him to be adequately concerned about the environment when evaluating the proper action to be taken while designing, constructing, operating or maintaining marine structures.

Technical description

The overall theme of the colloquium is the interaction between the concept of marine projects and their environmental impact.

The Colloquium will address the environmental impact of marine structures, for example: Bridges and Tunnels, Harbours, Storm Surge Barriers, Dredging and Reclamation Schemes and Off-Shore Installations.

The Colloquium will deal with aspects of environmental impact, for example: Aquatic Environment including Oceanographic Circulation, Marine Life, Sediment Transport, Noise and Vibrations, Aesthetic Values and the potential impact on climate.

Special topics will deal with methods for Environmental Impact Assessment, Role of Public Opinion, Acceptance Criteria for Environmental Impacts, Special Problems in Developing Countries.

The Colloquium will deal with the topics from a general as well as methodological viewpoint, including case studies.

Date and place

The Colloquium will be held from Monday, May 27, to Wednesday, May 29, 1991, at Hotel Nyborg Strand.

The venue of the colloquium, Hotel Nyborg Strand, is situated on the shore of the Great Belt, close to the landing of the West Bridge, spanning the western channel of the Great Belt. The construction of the combined motorway and railway link across the Great Belt started in 1987 and, at the time of the colloquium, interesting stages of both the West Bridges construction and the bored tunnel works under the eastern channel may be inspected. The fixed traffic link also provides an interesting example of the influence of environmental considerations on the design and construction – including the choice of alternative solution.

The abstracts received by the Scientific Committee show great interest in the subject from all over the world, and some interesting discussions and a fruitful exchange of ideas are expected.

Two technical excursions to the construction sites will be organized. A programme for accompanying persons will give the participants an opportunity to see the beautiful and interesting sides of Funen, «The Garden of Denmark».

Participation

The Colloquium is intended for scientists, consulting engineers, contractors, representatives of owners, authorities and politicians from all over the world.

Language

The sessions of the Colloquium will be conducted in English.

No simultaneous translation will be provided.

Information / Registration

All inquiries concerning Registration, the Technical Excursions and the Social Programme should be addressed not later than January 15, 1991 to:

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