

**Zeitschrift:** IABSE structures = Constructions AIPC = IVBH Bauwerke  
**Band:** 10 (1986)  
**Heft:** C-36: Structures in Japan

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**Structures in Japan  
Constructions au Japan  
Bauwerke in Japan**

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**Preface by the Chairman of the Japanese Group of IABSE**

According to custom the February Issue of «IABSE STRUCTURES» is devoted to the host country of the symposium to be held that year. This booklet contains a selection of reports on structures recently constructed in Japan. Some very interesting articles relating to structures completed previously regrettably do not appear, not fulfilling the criteria for publication. Also, there are some other unique structures now under construction in our country, such as a curved cable-stayed bridge in Tokyo and long-span suspension bridges with both highway and railway decks in the Honshu-Shikoku Bridge Project. Although these are not included in this booklet, we can show them to you during the technical visits before and after the IABSE Tokyo Symposium this coming September.

Because Japan frequently suffers natural disasters such as earthquakes and typhoons, and most of its built-up areas are on very soft ground, the first requirement in construction of civil engineering and architectural structures is to provide the necessary safety and durability

against these adverse environmental conditions. Considering the circumstances, the achievements in structural engineering in Japan have been quite remarkable, particularly after the Second World War. No doubt, many IABSE members will have noticed some of these achievements when they were in Japan for the Tenth Congress in Tokyo. Progress has continued to be made during the decade since then.

We are pleased to have the opportunity to offer the venue for the symposium and to provide a forum for the discussion of the various facets of an engineering approach to safety and quality assurance of structures. The objective and the place of the meeting, I think, are very opportune for structural engineers of the world. I would like to extend a cordial invitation to all the members of IABSE and their colleagues to visit Japan to attend the Symposium.

*Masatane Kokubu  
Chairman  
Japanese Group of IABSE*