Preliminary Invitation and Call for Papers

Improving Infrastructure Worldwide

Bringing People Closer

IABSE Symposium

Weimar, Germany
Sept 19–21, 2007

Organized by the German Group of IABSE and the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar under the Patronage of the German Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs.
INTRODUCTION

Infrastructure projects are the key to development. They allow for the transportation of goods and the communication of people.

The German Group of IABSE and the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar wish to invite the world’s structural engineers to discuss ways to improve infrastructure worldwide in order to bring people closer together.

Political borders for example between East and West Germany have hindered a fruitful development. Many such political barriers have started to open creating major opportunities for fruitful development of closer relationships between people and groups. These include development of transportation systems beyond all geographical and political borders: roads, railways, waterways and flight lines including new and improved structures such as bridges, tunnels, stations and airports. They are all embedded in supra-regional infrastructure concepts which do not only include the actual current demands but also have to be based on visions for the future in order to fulfill the promises given to people – bringing them closer together.

The Symposium is organized by the German Group of IABSE, with Mr Holger Svensson (Vice-President of the German IABSE Group) as the chair of the Organizing Committee and Mrs Prof. Ulrike Kuhlmann (University Stuttgart, Institute of Structural Design) as Chair of the Scientific Committee.

It will be held for the first time in Weimar, one of Germany’s most famous cultural heritage sites.
OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE

The Symposium aims to provide a forum for practitioners and researchers from around the world to exchange views and experiences on infrastructure concepts and projects such as transport structures like bridges, tunnels, railway stations, etc.

It offers a broad range of topics for discussion including important design considerations such as design for durability and sustainability. As a special aspect, design for movements, dealing with design, construction and monitoring of bearings and expansion joints is included. Also addressed is the use of checking and monitoring to ensure quality.

WHO IS INVITED?

The Symposium is intended for civil and structural engineers, architects and associated professionals interested in the latest achievements and developments in research, design, construction, monitoring, maintenance and performance of infrastructure works.

Participants will therefore be researchers, designers, consultants, owners, contractors, operators, suppliers, representatives of regulatory authorities and any other interested persons.

DATE AND PLACE

The Symposium will take place at the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar from Wednesday, September 19, till Friday, September 21, 2007. IABSE’s Annual Meetings will take place just prior to that from Sunday, September 16, till Tuesday, September 18, 2007 - also at the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar.

Weimar is located in the state of Thuringia in central Germany. The nearest airports are Erfurt, Leipzig, Frankfurt and Berlin. Weimar is also one of the stops along the fast Inter City Express train routes and is within easy access of freeways A4 and A71. 3000 hotel beds in all categories are available in and around Weimar.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

Taking responsibility for the future means building structures that fulfil their tasks for the entire period of their planned service life. Therefore, consideration of life cycle costs and designing and constructing for long-term durability form part of a greater responsibility we take in view of the exploitation of natural resources. Sustainable principles for design and construction are therefore vital.

Below is the detailed program of topics that will be addressed under the overall symposium theme.

1. Infrastructure as a Unifying Concept

- concepts, possibilities, experiences
- large, cross-border infrastructure projects
- national and international infrastructure projects (Projects ‘German Unity’, Gotthardt Project, Femer Belt etc.)
- financing major infrastructure projects (PPP, BOT)

2. Traffic Structures - Built for a Long and Efficient Life

- bridges
- tunnels
- waterways
- railway stations
- airports and hangars

3. Important Design Considerations – Design for Durability and Sustainability

- durable materials
- design and construction for durability
- unification of design concepts
- strengthening and repair
- lifetime performance
- life-cycle considerations

4. Important Design Considerations – Design for Movements

- bearing systems for bridges
- bearings and expansion joints
- anti-seismic devices
- inspection, exchange and monitoring
- new materials

5. Check Engineering and Monitoring – International Review on Quality Control Systems

- design
- construction
- maintenance
- rehabilitation
SYMPOSIUM FORMAT

The Scientific Program includes Plenary, Concurrent and Poster Sessions over two and a half days.

At the Plenary Sessions, keynote speakers will present lectures on key symposium topics. Concurrent sessions will take place in three meeting rooms. A further session will be a “BASAAR”, following a similar order of recent IABSE Symposia.

Papers covering different themes and topics will be selected from abstracts submitted to the Scientific Committee. They will be presented orally or by poster.

COMMERCIAL EXHIBITION

A commercial exhibition is planned at the Symposium venue. This offers a unique opportunity for companies to display their projects, products and services. Companies interested in exhibiting are invited to contact the Symposium Secretariat as soon as possible, but not later than December 31, 2006.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Authors interested in participating are invited to submit abstracts before August 31, 2006, in accordance with the topics and sub-topics above. The abstract should be written in English and 200 to 300 words in length.

Detailed information about abstracts and their submission can be found at www.iabse.org.

ACCEPTANCE OF PAPERS

Information on the acceptance of an abstract and for the preparation of the full paper will be given according to the schedule below. The acceptance of final contributions will be given by the Scientific Committee.

SCHEDULE

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<tr>
<td>November 30, 2006</td>
<td>notification of acceptance of abstracts</td>
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<td>January 31, 2007</td>
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<td>February 28, 2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 20, 2007</td>
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<td>September 19, 2007</td>
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YOUNG ENGINEERS PROGRAM

All participants born in or after 1972 will benefit from a reduction in their registration fee. In addition, any principal author, born in or after 1972, who personally presents his or her own paper or poster at the Symposium, will receive a further grant. An independent jury will select two contributions by young authors – oral or poster – and each will receive a prize. The prizes will be presented at the Closing Session of the Symposium.

LANGUAGE

The official language of the Symposium is English. Oral presentation and discussion will be in English only.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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PRE-REGISTRATION

Those interested in participating in the Symposium are invited to complete the preliminary registration form available at www.iabse2007.de. We accept written pre-registration forms only in exceptional cases.
TECHNICAL VISITS
The half-day technical visits will include several projects under construction in the vicinity of Weimar, including:
- bridges and tunnels of the Thuringia Forest Freeway
- the Canal Bridge crossing the Elbe river near Magdeburg
- new railway lines and stations
- the new airports at Leipzig, Erfurt, Dresden
These visits will also be open to accompanying persons.

BERLIN
A special tour will be made to Berlin, the vibrant re-established capital of Germany. This will include a walk around the new cupola of the Reichstag, a visit to the new Potsdamer Platz and a visit to some of the world-famous operas and theaters.

THURINGIA
The name of Thuringia triggers immediate associations with famous names like Bach, Goethe, Schiller and Wieland or famous historical places like the Wartburg, Erfurt and Weimar. Yet, there is more to Thuringia than that. With every step one finds historic sites and there are countless museums and monuments to visit.

AND FURTHER
- visits to the ancient cities of Dresden, Leipzig, Magdeburg and Potsdam
- a tour to the Baltic Sea with the famous island of Rügen and the ancient Hansa cities of Rostock and Wismar
- trips to Munich (with the Alps) and the Czech Capital Prague
- trips to the ten major infrastructure projects ‘German Unity’ for road, rail and waterways

SOCIAL PROGRAM
There will be an attractive program of tours to places of historical and cultural interest in and around Weimar. This is open to participants and accompanying persons.

POST-SYMPOSIUM TOURS
After the Symposium, participants and accompanying persons can participate in a variety of specially organized tours of technical, historical and cultural interest both in Germany and the Czech Republic. An overview of the tour options that will be made available follows:

ABOUT THE CITY OF WEIMAR
Weimar, the location of the Symposium, is a small charming city with beautiful architecture, narrow alleys and broad parks. Yet, its historical and cultural significance far exceeds its size.

One immediate connection is to the Weimar Republic and then to its darker fascist history and the Buchenwald concentration camp just outside the town.

Yet, Weimar is also synonymous with German culture from the Classic to Modernity and, through the times, was home to such influential thinkers, artists and musicians as Goethe, Schiller, Bach, Herder, Liszt, Nietzsche and Gropius.

Today, Weimar continues to be a significant cultural centre, with the Bauhaus-Universität and the music school “Franz Liszt”. It was Cultural Capital of Europe in 1999 and is the only city so far to have been accepted three times on the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage list (1996, 1998, 2001).
PUBLICATION

A short version of the accepted papers will be published in the Symposium Re-port and the full papers will be available on CD-ROM. Report and CD-ROM will be available at the beginning of the Sym-posium.

ABOUT IABSE

The International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering (IABSE) was founded in 1929. Today, IABSE has 4000 members in over 100 countries. The mission of IABSE is to promote the ex-change of knowledge and to advance the practice of structural engineering world-wide in the service of the profession and society.

To accomplish its mission, IABSE or- ganizes conferences and publishes the quarterly journal Structural Engineering International (SEI), as well as reports and other monographs.

IABSE also presents annual awards for outstanding achievements in research and practice that advance the profession of structural engineering.

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to be continued
German Group of IABSE

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