

The First Joint International Conference of the Liaison Committee - A Successful Outcome

Composite Construction - Conventional and Innovative

For years the international civil engineering associations of the Liaison Committee have been working towards an effective coordination of their activities for the sole purpose of rendering a better service to their members. This was the first International Conference put on jointly by its Members.

It was organised by IABSE - The International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering and took place in Innsbruck, Austria from 16th to 18th September 1997.

Over 700 participants from 50 countries attended and in addition there were 199 accompanying persons, a highly satisfactory turnout by any standards and a clear demonstration of the high level of interest in composite construction.

The fact that 430 abstracts had been submitted and 180 papers and posters were used for presentation indicated the enthusiastic response and resulted in a conference programme that provided a comprehensive overview of the different aspects of Composite Construction, ranging from combinations of traditional building materials to the incorporation of unconventional structural materials such as fiber reinforced plastics.

Representatives of the
Member Associations
of the Liaison committee
in Innsbruck



Four Plenary Sessions addressed the challenges of composite construction in high rise buildings and bridges, as well as its application in the strengthening of existing structures. Contributions also pointed the way to new developments in the application, assessment, safety and serviceability of composite structures, with special attention paid to issues like earthquake and fire safety.

The scientific programme was complemented by Technical Excursions before and after the Conference to sites of interest in Innsbruck and the surrounding countryside. A Display of Large Projects, open to the public, with outstanding examples of recent composite structures from around the world, and a Commercial Exhibition with companies presenting their state-of-the-art products and services, rounded out the varied programme for the participants.