

## IABSE Symposium Madrid 2014

### Engineering for Progress, Nature and People

Throughout the last two decades, the Spanish construction industry has seen enormous development—building a modern and efficient transportation system that includes the longest high-speed rail network in Europe (over 3000 km) and one of the longest highway networks (16 000 km) along with significant improvements in airports and port facilities to impel economic competitiveness and public welfare. The outstanding structures that have been constructed in recent years have reached new goals in creativity, originality, innovation and technical capacity, bringing in at the same time breath-taking designs.

It comes as no surprise, therefore, that Spanish engineering is now present in all continents, with its foremost seal of excellence being its optimum quality-price ratio driven by the high level of competition in Spain. Amongst its other virtues are the quality of the services rendered and the ability to provide specialist and customised services, as a result of the excellent technical training of its engineers. Therefore, from a professional perspective one cannot deny the magnificent technical and human capacity of the professionals in the Construction and Structural Engineering sector.

On one hand, stress should be placed on the engineers' high technical expertise, which is supplemented by their firm commitment to hard work, their huge potential in project management and their consummate troubleshooting skills. Indeed, it is a sector that contributes to the intense training of third parties through different international forums (especially in Latin America). On the other hand, these professionals also stand out with regard to all the other critical competencies associated with human endeavour, as in the case of their adaptability to different working scenarios or environments, their ability to win the trust of customers or their enormous creative capacity, whereby from a technical perspective, Spanish engineering firms should feel



Gran Via Street, Madrid (photo: © NMF)

confident about operating in virtually any international market as required.

This level of development in the field of structural engineering and construction encouraged the Spanish Group of IABSE to organise the 37th IABSE Symposium Madrid 2014.

The title of the Symposium “*Engineering for Progress, Nature and People*” clearly reflects one of the main aims of the Spanish Structural Engineering Community, strongly influenced by the diversity and rich nature of its country which drives its creativity in full equilibrium with consistent technical solutions. This diversity shows the path of a particular development reflected over the centuries in appreciating life, art and people.

Madrid is a blend of tradition and modernity. It is a lively, majestic and dynamic city, overflowing with art and entertainment where nobody feels left out. Thanks to its art, culture and monuments, Madrid has one of the most important cultural heritages in the world. Apart from its modern infrastructures that guarantee successful organisa-

tion, culturally Madrid is one of the most attractive cities in the world: museums, exhibitions, unique collections, a world-renowned opera season, a varied theatre, sports and cultural events, and so on.

### Organisation

This 37th IABSE Symposium Madrid 2014 is an opportunity for practitioners



Plaza Mayor, Madrid (photo: © NMF)



Galindo River Bridge (photo: © Carlos Fernández Casado SL)

and researchers to be updated on worldwide achievements and trends in design, analysis, construction, maintenance and all aspects of structural engineering. The Organising Committee (OC) is chaired by M. Dolores G. Pulido. Under the leadership of Antonio Martínez Cutillas (Chair) and José María Goicolea Ruigómez (Vice chair) the Scientific Committee (SC) has reviewed over 750 abstracts submitted by authors from 60 countries, and selected those to be presented to the Symposium under the main theme.

The Annual Meetings of IABSE will take place immediately prior to the Symposium at the same venue.

#### **Symposium Venue**

The Symposium will take place in the Technical Institute of the University CEU San Pablo, Campus Montepíncipe, Boadilla del Monte, Madrid. The venue is located in south-west Madrid and surrounded by beautiful woodlands. Free shuttle buses have been arranged between the venue and hotels where attendees will be staying (round trip) all day through (estimated travel time 15 minutes). The venue can also be accessed easily by bus, taxi, metro, tram, etc.

#### **Dates**

Annual Meetings: Aug. 31–Sept. 2, 2014  
Symposium: Sept. 3–5, 2014.

#### **Technical Programme**

The Technical Programme of the Symposium covers three days. Plenary sessions with keynote lectures will take place after the Opening Ceremony and in the morning of the second and third days. The Symposium will conclude with the Closing Ceremony on Friday. A parallel technical session will consist of six to eight oral presentations. Poster sessions will provide symposium attendees the opportunity to meet the authors and discuss their papers. Among these parallel sessions there will be some that are arranged by particular Technical Groups of IABSE focusing on specific subjects relevant to their activities within the overall theme of the Symposium.

Papers accepted for presentation on a wide variety of subjects across the full spectrum of the technologies associated with structures will be allocated to:

- Innovative Design Concepts
- Sustainable Infrastructures
- Major Projects and Innovative Structures and Materials
- Analysis
- Forensic Structural Engineering
- Construction
- Operation, Maintenance, Monitoring and Instrumentation
- Education and Ethics
- Cooperation and Development Projects

#### **Keynote Speakers**

During the Symposium's Opening Ceremony and plenary sessions, keynote lectures covering the main subjects will be presented by distinguished speakers including amongst others: Xu Dong (China), Dan M. Frangopol (USA), Javier Manterola (Spain), Robert Ratay (USA), Raid Karoumi (Sweden), Matt Carter (USA), Maria Garlock (USA) and Xavier Oliver (Spain).

#### **Special Sessions**

There will also be special sessions devoted to particularly notable current projects and themes. A special 'round table' will be held on the Spanish Structural Engineering.

#### **Symposium Report**

Each attendee will receive a Symposium Report: the printed Report will contain the two-page abstracts of all papers accepted by the Scientific Committee. The full version will be included on a CD-ROM.

#### **Young Engineers Programme**

The OC and the IABSE Fellows offer a series of benefits to the participants born in 1979 or later: A Young Engineer (YE) reduced registration fee; YE Social Event; Two prizes fo



Arganzuela Footbridge, Madrid (photo: © NMF)

CHF 2500 each for two outstanding contributions (oral or poster) authored and presented by a YE; Free membership for the year 2015.

### Technical Visits

Five half-day visits in Madrid to buildings, construction sites and projects of special interest will be arranged in parallel with the technical sessions, such as historical constructions, bridges and footbridges, buildings, tunnels, metro stations, rail infrastructures, Madrid Río Project, etc.

A one-day technical-touristic tour after the Symposium is being prepared as well to visit the Alcántara Bridge (a 2000 year old Roman stone-arch bridge built over the Tagus River at Alcántara). Tour selection must be made in advance on the symposium website once the final programme is published.

### Social Programme

An exciting social programme is being prepared for all registered participants and accompanying persons. On the first day all participants and accompanying persons are invited to join the Welcome Reception (Sept. 3, 2014), which is included in the registration fee. The Welcome Reception will be held at the Prado Museum, where attendees can enjoy an exclusive tour guided by

experts in Art History through the best work of the masters Goya, Velázquez and Greco. After the visit, a cocktail will be served at the museum.

The day before the Welcome Reception, the popular networking event for young engineers will take place (Sept. 2, 2014).

On the second day (Sept. 4, 2014), the Symposium Gala Dinner will be hosted and participants will enjoy another lovely evening with dinner and an interesting Flamenco show in the courtyard of the Palace of Communications of the Plaza de Cibeles (City Hall). Shortly before the Dinner, a photographic exhibition on Spanish structural engineering seen from the artistic point of view will be opened at the same venue for all participants.

On the third day (Sept. 5, 2014), a closing cocktail will be held in the field of the Santiago Bernabeu Football Stadium. Before the cocktail, attendees will enjoy an exclusive VIP tour of the museum Real Madrid, the VIP Box, photographs with the Cups, etc.

### Accompanying Persons

What is really unique about Madrid is that, apart from its 600 Cultural Heritage listed buildings, there are also four towns that are UNESCO Human Heritage sites within a radius of 100 km: Alcalá de Henares, Ávila, Segovia

and Toledo, all of which are architectural emblems of medieval Spain. Among the city's museums, those on the Paseo del Prado between Atocha Station and the Plaza de Cibeles are of special importance. The Prado Museum, the Reina Sofía Museum and the Thyssen Bornemisza Museum, three of the most important art galleries in the world, only a few hundred metres apart in one of the city's planned pedestrian zones, making up the so-called Avenue of Art.

A programme is being organised for accompanying persons, which will include guided visits everyday from Sept. 3 to 5. Visits will include the above-mentioned places and others.

### Registration

Early Bird registration for reduced fees is by **June 30, 2014**. Participants can register via: [www.iabse.org/Madrid2014](http://www.iabse.org/Madrid2014).

### Accommodation

Madrid has one of the highest quality ranges of hotels in the world. The city has over 60,000 hotel beds. The Organizing Committee has selected hotels within easy accessible range of the Symposium venue. More information about registration will be provided on the Symposium website.

### Pre-Post Symposium Tours

Guided day trips can be arranged to: Sevilla, Granada, Córdoba, Barcelona.

### Sponsors and Exhibitors

A number of sponsorship packages and spaces at the Commercial Exhibition are still available. If your company is interested in sponsorship or in exhibiting, please contact: [production@IABSEMadrid2014.org](mailto:production@IABSEMadrid2014.org).

### More Information

[www.iabse.org/Madrid2014](http://www.iabse.org/Madrid2014)  
[secretariat@IABSEMadrid2014.org](mailto:secretariat@IABSEMadrid2014.org)

**M. Dolores G. Pulido**  
Chair, OC Madrid 2014



*Palace of Communications courtyard in Cibeles Square, Madrid (photo: © NMF)*