

Welcoming remarks

Giuseppe Grandori, President of the International Association for Earthquake Engineering

Authorities, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen!

In the name of the International Association for Earthquake Engineering, welcome to the 10th World Conference.

Professor López Arroyo, Dr. Blázquez, all Spanish colleagues involved in the organization of the Conference!

In the name of the International Association, thank you very much for the warm reception and for all the arrangements that promise a very successful event.

Our Association was formally established thirty years ago with the object of holding World Conferences, interchanging information and extending technical cooperation. This 10th



Conference Participants at the Opening Ceremony



Opening Ceremony

World Conference is an important step that proves the vitality of the Association. The Conference will provide an outline of the progress that has been made in the various disciplines involved in earthquake engineering.

In addition to scientific discussion, the Association will face during the Conference many management problems. I wish to lay emphasis on two of them.

The first one regards the involvement of the Association with the International Decade for Disaster Reduction. Professor Housner is the Chairman of the Committee that was formed in 1988, during the 9th World Conference, for IDNDR activities. He will give here some general information. Moreover, a special theme session will be devoted to IDNDR on Tuesday from 10 am to 6.30 pm.

The second problem I wish to mention concerns membership. It is appropriate to remember that, following our Statutes, the International Association is "composed of National Organizations", and only one National Organization from a country can become a member.

At the end of the 9th World Conference in Japan, there were 38 member countries. Then, the two Germanies became one, making the number of member countries 37. However, some countries split up and some others are currently splitting up.

This situation will result in applications for new memberships. In the past, membership was considered possible only for those countries whose independence was internationally recognized. From this point of view, at present, the problem may be in some cases unclear. In any case, it is up to the Executive Committee to approve memberships. I trust in the wisdom of the Executive Committee and of its Consultative Members.

Finally, I wish to mention that New Zealand delegation brought here the statue of Ruaumoko, the Maori God of Earthquakes and Volcanoes. The Conference will develop under the protection of Ruaumoko.

Dear friends, enjoy the Conference and wonderful Spanish hospitality!

Thank you for your attention!