

## Closing ceremony address

Rafael Blázquez, Director of the 10 WCEE Steering Committee

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen:

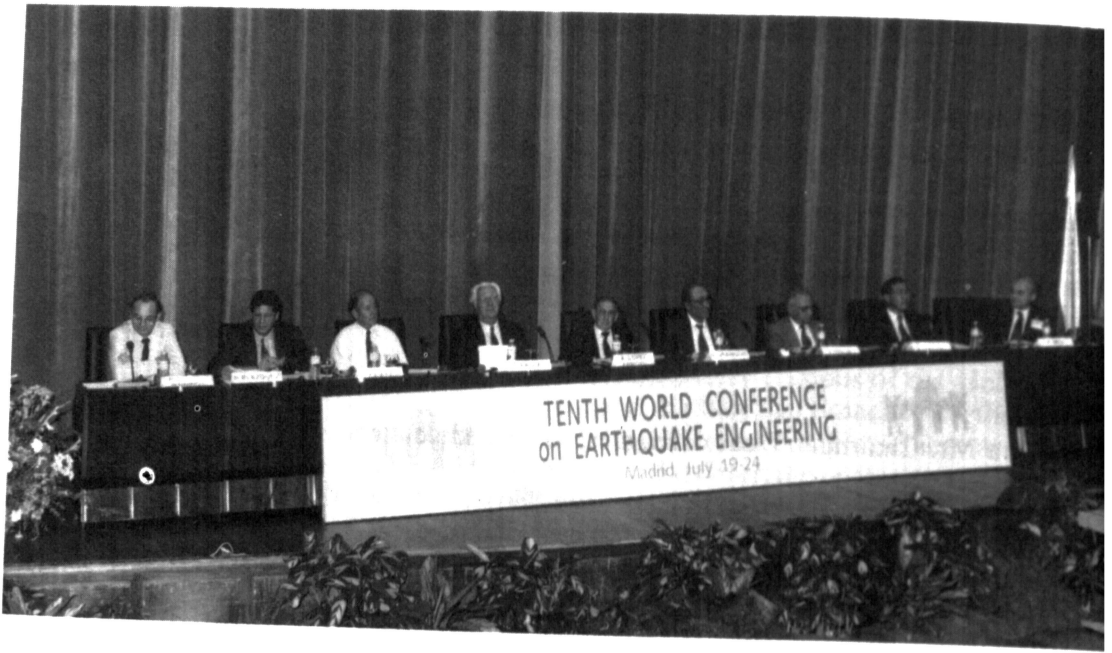
Some people have been asking me these days: "How do you get this done?" Well, there is no secret, there is only one way to do it and I do not think this is the right order, but: time, four-year time; money, roughly 1.3 million dollars; will and organization. What I am going to comment on here is mainly organization.

Almost immediately after the celebration of the 9WCEE in Japan, the Spanish Association for Earthquake Engineering selected the individuals composing the Steering Committee for the 10WCEE. It was formed by twelve members who were made responsible for the different areas requiring major organizational efforts; specifically, eight tasks assigned to 8 Committees were identified. Today, I am not focusing on the tasks, I want to focus on the names. I am going to call all of them: Professor Alfonso López Arroyo, the Steering Committee Chairman, myself as the Director, a very special person to whom I am very indebted, Mrs. Milagros Couchoud, the Executive Secretary and Miss Maja Vasiljevic, the General Coordinator, held the Conference on their shoulders. The eight Chairmen of the Organizing Committees who were very helpful to me all the time: Enrique Alarcón, José Luis Almazán, Alberto Bernal, Miguel Herráiz, Joaquín Martí, Manuel Pastor (the whole Scientific Committee did a tremendous work), Luis Rodríguez Ovejero and José Trigueros.

Each member of the Steering Committee with a specific area of responsibility was free to create a Committee of the size required for realizing their tasks as well as for providing the Committee with extra voluntary help as needed. The size of these Committees and their additional support ranged from the very few people required in Committees such as the Finance Committee to the large numbers of people (about 200) involved in reviewing abstracts within the scope of the Scientific Committee.

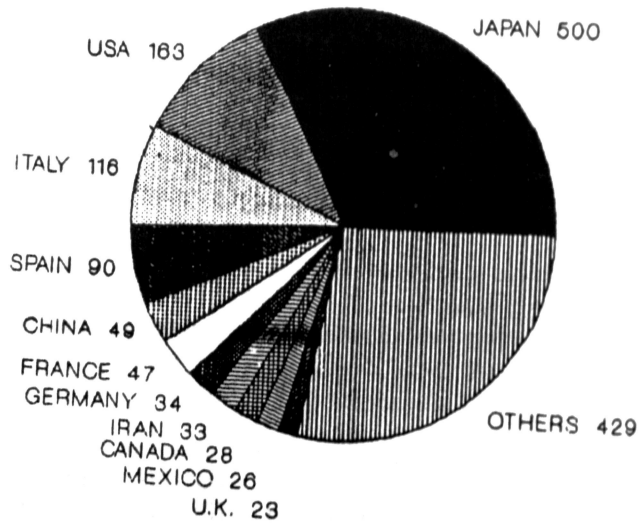
The key dates in the organization process were the following: June 1990: 1st circular and information forms; January 1991: 2nd circular and call for abstracts; June 1991: deadline for reception of abstracts; November 1991: acceptance of papers; January 1992: 3rd circular and preliminary program; February 1992: deadline for reception of papers; April 1992: deadline for pre-registration (I read all this for the benefit of our Mexican colleagues).

One of the first activities undertaken by the Steering Committee was the selection of an adequate company specialized in organizing conferences of this magnitude. The choice of TILESAs with its experienced and highly professional staff proved to be ideal, as they have been of invaluable help in all stages of the organization process. Mrs. Rebollo, please accept, on behalf of all of us, our deep gratitude for these four years of work and friendship.



Closing Ceremony

# 10-WCEE



The Call for Abstracts was exceptionally successful. Over 2000 abstracts (exactly 2045) from all over the world were received in spite of the restrictions imposed: an individual could be the first author of only one paper and a co-author of only one additional paper, he or she had to pre-register and to acquire one set of Proceedings. Only 1492 of the abstracts sent could be accepted for oral or poster presentation due to time and space limitations, as well as for the reason of maintaining the Proceedings within an acceptable size. Of the papers accepted, about 1100 were sent for final printing and most of them were presented at the Conference.

For those who are fond of statistics, the Conference in numbers was as follows: 10 Volumes of Proceedings and one Post-Conference Volume. More than 1700 participants (1540 registered ones for the Technical Sessions and over 150 experts more participating only in the Special Theme Sessions). About 30 participants from developing countries were granted financial support by the Organization.

The distribution of the registered attendees by countries is reflected in the diagram.

All this gigantic technical and organizational work required the collaboration of hundreds of individuals, the list of whom is too long to mention and who have voluntarily contributed their effort. Tens of companies and official institutions supported the Conference both financially and with the required services. The 10WCEE would not have taken place without the generosity of all of them.

One outstanding output of this Conference which I am very proud to announce is the creation of the new Iberoamerican Association of Earthquake Engineering. I will just read here the Memorandum of Understanding of this Association "We the undersigned, on behalf of our respective countries and taking into account the necessity to coordinate the efforts in Earthquake Engineering and related fields, have agreed to create the Iberoamerican Association of Earthquake Engineering (Asociación Iberoamericana de Ingeniería Sísmica - AIIS). To this end, on the occasion of the Eight Latinamerican Seminar on Earthquake Engineering, the organizing meeting will be held in Mérida (Venezuela) during 1993. The Instituto Nacional de Prevención Sísmica (INPRES) de Argentina is provisionally designated as coordinating office of the constitutive meeting".

Well, it is time to finish the report of our job and look forward to the opening of the 11WCEE in Mexico in 1996. On behalf of the members of the Steering Committee, I want to give sincere thanks to all the participants (because they made this event possible); to all my collaborators (their suffering is now over) and very personally to two people who did not live long enough to see it all done but who gave me the strength and the determination to make it throughout the last four years. To my wife and my father, thank you both, wherever you are.

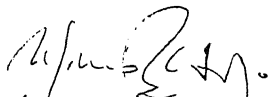
See you all in the beautiful Acapulco in four years from now. So long. Adios.

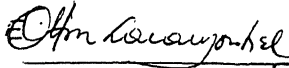
The Original AIIS Memorandum

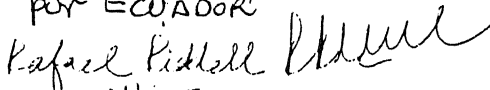
IBEROAMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING

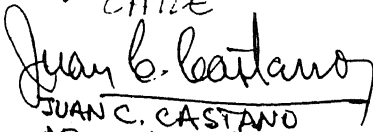
We the undersigned, on behalf of our respective countries and taking into account the necessity to coordinate the efforts in Earthquake Engineering and related fields, have agreed to create the IBEROAMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING (ASOCIACION IBEROAMERICANA DE INGENIERIA SISMICA - AIIS). To this end, on the occasion of the Eighth Latinamerican Seminar on Earthquake Engineering, the organizing meeting will be held in Mérida (Venezuela) during 1993. The Instituto Nacional de Prevención Sísmica (INPRES) de Argentina is provisionally designated as coordinating office of the constitutive meeting.


Madrid, July 24, 1992

  
A. CODEZ ARBYO  
SPAIN  
MEXICO

  
OTTON LARA  
POR ECUADOR

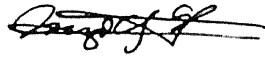
  
RAFAEL PIDELO  
CHILE

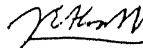
  
JUAN C. CASTANO  
ARGENTINA

  
POR VENEZUELA

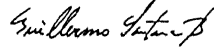
J. GRASES

M. CHAVEZ

  
POR PORTUGAL: R.T. DUARTE R.T. DUARTE



POR PERU JORGE E. ALVA

  
Guillermo Santana  
COSTA RICA