

Preface

The first two World Conferences on Earthquake Engineering, which took place in the United States (1956) and Japan (1960), evinced the need for an institution which would continuously promote the international collaboration of scientists and engineers for reducing earthquake damage. As a result, the International Association for Earthquake Engineering was created in 1963 and has been responsible for convening all subsequent World Conferences: New Zealand (1965), Chile (1969), Italy (1973), India (1977), Turkey (1980), United States (1984), Japan (1988) and, the present one, Spain (1992), organized by the Spanish Association of Earthquake Engineering (AEIS).

Interest generated by the World Conferences has been steadily increasing over the years. This is not surprising since the World Conferences constitute a universal forum where individuals representing the most varied professional activities meet every four years under the common denominator of earthquake engineering. New developments are presented, scientific breakthroughs are disclosed, novel equipment and devices are displayed, information is freely exchanged, etc. Thus, the World Conferences serve both as a source of knowledge and as a seedbed for new activities.

The Tenth World Conference takes place under very special circumstances, both internationally and domestically. Indeed, it is the first World Conference to be held during the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) and the last four years have been a period of increased seismic activity which particularly affected urban areas. In addition, the fact that the Tenth World Conference on Earthquake Engineering (10 WCEE) coincides with the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America makes it a significant milestone for Spain and the whole world. This coincidence has serendipity: out of 2300 abstracts received from the call for papers, exactly 1492 (the year of the encounter of the ancient and the new worlds) became selected.

The Proceedings contain all papers accepted and submitted for presentation, whether in oral or poster sessions. An additional volume will be issued after the Conference with the keynote lectures as well as the state-of-the-art reports, invited papers and the resumes of the special theme sessions. It will also include the speeches at the opening and closing ceremonies, the list of participants and the minutes of the General Assembly of the International Association for Earthquake Engineering to be held during the Conference.

For the 10 WCEE Steering Committee:

Alfonso López Arroyo (Chairman)
President of AEIS

Rafael Blázquez (Director)
Vice President of AEIS

Joaquín Martí (Member)
Secretary of the AEIS