

SOCIAL EVENTS

Wellington.

On Friday evening, 29th January, a Gala Concert was presented at the Lower Hutt Town Hall. The evening was opened by Mr. C.W.O. Turner. The Mayor of Lower Hutt gave an address of welcome, which was followed by an address of reply, by Professor K. Muto. The audience enjoyed a concert by the Alex Lindsay String Orchestra and the Wellington Harmonic Society, with soloists. Following the concert refreshments and a buffet supper were served in the adjoining hall. An orchestral group played light music and included several well-known Maori folksongs. This evening was attended by 500 participants and guests.

The Conference Dinner was held on Saturday, 30th January, in the Student Union Building of the Victoria University. Following the toast to the Queen - proposed by Mr. C.W.O. Turner -, and to the Association - by Professor R. Flores -, Mr. J.E. Rinne was inducted as President. It was also announced that Mr. C.W.O. Turner had been elected Vice-President of the Association. Dr. J. Krishna toasted the Retiring President and presented Dr. K. Muto with a cigarette box on behalf of the New Zealand National Committee. Two further toasts were made, one by Professor E. Rosenblueth to the President and answered by Mr. J.E. Rinne, and one to the New Zealand National Committee by Professor J.F. Borges, replied to by Mr. C.W.O. Turner. At this dinner of many events, Mr. C.W.O. Turner - in his capacity of Chairman of the New Zealand National Committee -, accepted a presentation of books from Professor S. Okamoto on behalf of the Japanese Society of Civil Engineers, the Architecture Institute of Japan and the Japan Association for Promotion of Earthquake Engineering. During the evening it was announced that the IAEE had decided to adopt "Ruaumoko", Maori God of Volcanoes and Earthquakes, as the symbol of the International Association. As a memento of this decision Mr. C.W.O. Turner presented Mr. J.E. Rinne and Professor K. Muto each with a plaque depicting the Ruaumoko emblem. This most successful dinner was attended by 400 delegates and their wives.

Sunday afternoon, 31st January, a scenic tour of Wellington included a visit to the Waiwhetu Maori Meeting House. The overseas participants were greeted by an elder of the Pa (village) and a group of Maori children demonstrated some action songs. This visit was of historical significance for the Meeting House, it being the only time when representatives of 29 nations had been gathered under its roof. In the evening overseas visitors were entertained at the homes of local participants.