Rotterdam

Rotterdam ‘The Gateway to Europe’, is the largest harbour in Europe and is the linking pin in the European economic community. The city and its surroundings is known through the centuries for the international outlook to the world. It cherishes a long tradition of unrestricted exchange of ideas. Recent developments show the ambitious image of the city. It offers an international atmosphere.

Transport

Rotterdam is directly connected to the international highspeed train network with connections to Amsterdam, Brussels, Paris and Frankfurt and their airports. The modern airport of Amsterdam Schiphol offers direct connections to more than 250 cities in more than 100 countries by more than 100 airlines.

Venue De Doelen

De Doelen is located in Rotterdam city centre and is 500 m from Rotterdam Central Station. De Doelen Congress Centre (the Willem Burger Complex) opened less than ten years ago and was designed to accommodate conferences and corporate events. It is characterised by its transparent, spacious and business-like design.

See Booking.com and www.cityguiderotterdam.com
IABSE agreed upon the organisation of the 2013 Spring Conference dedicated to this subject held in the Netherlands.

**Themes and topics of the IABSE Spring Conference 2013**

1. **Load carrying capacity and remaining lifetime**
   - Tunnels
   - Bridges
   - Port and maritime structures

2. **Assessment of structural condition**
   - Procedures and methods
   - Effectiveness, loading assessment and decision tools
   - Monitoring
   - Sensoring

3. **Modernisation and refurbishment**
   - Change of utilization and conditions of use
   - Transformation or restoration
   - Industrial processes, more efficient processes and smart building
   - Construction in restricted areas and/or under confined conditions
   - Structures of historic and architectural value

4. **Materials and products**
   - Conservation and repair products
   - Intelligent materials
   - Recycling of materials

5. **Structural verification**
   - Bridges
   - Tunnels
   - Port and maritime structures

**Important dates**

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**Preface**

The Dutch and Belgian IABSE groups organise May 6-8, 2013 an International Conference dedicated to the very important topic for our society to keep our infrastructure in a good condition. IABSE, the International association for Bridge and Structural Engineering is a scientific/technical Association comprising about 4,000 members in 100 countries, counting 48 National Groups worldwide. Thus IABSE offers the platform for exchange of knowledge, opinions and ideas to explore new ways for this global problem.

The co-operation between scientists and practitioners in IABSE proved to be an enrichment, leading to new ideas and initiatives for over 80 years now. In the field of construction materials and construction many changes can be noted. For progress nowadays working together in an International context is a must. In a fast changing world the considerable developments and challenges ask for a general and common approach and also bundling of forces. New material and construction types challenge the imagination of designing. The implementation of life cycle design is stimulated by ecological and economical constraints. Infrastructure is not only designed for safety and serviceability, but as well for flexibility and adaptability. Maintenance and upgrading of structures move to the centre of interest.

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