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‘Anton Tedesko Medal’ Awarded to Esko Järvenpää, Finland

The IABSE Foundation for the Advancement of Structural Engineering has awarded Esko Järvenpää, Finland, with the Anton Tedesko Medal 2015, ‘in recognition of his dedication to excellence in structural engineering and his role as mentor for young engineers’. Tobia Zordan, Chair of the IABSE Foundation will present the Medal to him on occasion of the IABSE Conference which will be held from September 23-25, 2015, in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Award has two components: the first is a medal awarded to the Laureate in recognition of his contribution to the advancement of structural engineering. The second part is a sum of 25'000 Swiss Francs to be used by the Laureate in order to organise and finance a study leave abroad for a young engineer (Fellow) with prestigious engineering firms.

Esko Järvenpää, born 1946, holds a Master of Science degree in Civil Engineering (1972) and a degree of Licentiate of Science (1986) from the University of Oulu, Finland. His thesis examined partially post-tensioned continuous bridge girders.

He started his professional career in ConsultingKORTES in 1972 and he continues working for the ‘same firm’ as Senior Bridge Specialist. The ownership and the name of the company changed to WSP Finland when the medium size company was merged to a big global group. Esko Järvenpää has lead the firm to global bridge design projects and developed the skills to internationally competitive level. He has actively developed international relations also in participating in ministerial delegations to different countries like India, China, Vietnam, Hong Kong and Russia among others. He has motivated many young engineers to continue their work career as bridge design engineers.

Between the years 1980-2000 Finland built several beautiful cable-stayed bridges for which Esko Järvenpää and his team prepared the design. He worked as the main designer of the first cable-stayed bridge Lumber Jack’s Candle Bridge in Finland which opened for traffic in 1989. The superstructure is a composite box girder structure, one of the first ones built. The Binh Bridge and the Tran Thi Ly Bridge, in Vietnam, are the most recent examples of bridges where his participation in their design has played a key role.

Esko Järvenpää has contributed with poster and paper presentations on cable-stayed bridges at IABSE Conferences. He was a member of the Scientific Committee and contributed as chair of a session at the Seoul Conference in 2001. Furthermore, he has worked as a teacher lecturing on bridges and pre-stressed structures and written bridge articles in numerous international journals and in the Handbook of International Bridge Engineering.

The ‘IABSE Foundation for the Advancement of Structural Engineering’ was founded in 1993 as a non-profit, tax-exempt institution according to the Laws of the Canton of Zurich, Switzerland, to solicit, receive an provide funds to promote the aims and activities of the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering. The Foundation aims to promote the IABSE objective of encouraging exchange between theory and practice, research and education, decision makers and the public. To this end the Foundation receives, raises and provides funds for special IABSE activities, education programmes and other activities consistent with the objectives of IABSE. The Foundation is managed by a self-governing Foundation Council. www.iabsefoundation.org

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