



By-laws of the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering

Name, Seat

Art. 1

1. The name of the body is the "International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering", an Association set up on October 29, 1929, in Zurich, under article 60 and ff. of the Swiss Civil Law. Its name in French is "Association Internationale des Ponts et Charpentes" and in German "Internationale Vereinigung für Brückenbau und Hochbau".
2. The Association has an emblem, which shall be used as designed, and only as prescribed by the Executive Committee.
3. The seat of the Association is Zurich, Switzerland.

Field of activity

Art. 2

1. The Association deals with the whole and all possible aspects of structural engineering.
2. Structural engineering is the science and art of planning, design, construction, operation, monitoring and inspection, maintenance, rehabilitation and preservation, demolishing and dismantling of structures, taking into consideration technical, economic, environmental, aesthetic and social aspects.
3. The term "Structures" includes bridges, buildings and all types of civil engineering structures, composed of any structural material.

Objectives

Art. 3

1. The aim of the Association is to exchange knowledge and to advance the practice of structural engineering worldwide in the service of the profession and society.
2. The Association has the following objectives:
 - to promote cooperation and understanding among all those concerned with structural engineering and related fields by worldwide exchange of knowledge and experience
 - to encourage awareness and responsibility of structural engineers towards the needs of society
 - to encourage actions necessary for progress in structural engineering
 - to improve and foster cooperation and understanding between organisations having similar objectives.



3. For this purpose, the Association may:

- organise conferences by itself or in collaboration with other organisations
- encourage and conduct continuing education programmes
- publish reports, communications and periodicals
- identify research and development needs
- initiate and support research activities
- confer awards for structural engineering achievements.

4. The Association neither has nor pursues any commercial objectives.

Membership

Art. 4

1. Any person who possesses appropriate technical or scientific knowledge, who is willing to support the Association's objectives, and who satisfies any additional requirements of the relevant National Group, may become an individual member of the Association.

2. Organisations having technical or scientific interest, such as public authorities, universities or institutes, libraries, associations, syndicates and firms, may become collective members of the Association.

3. All members of the Association pay an annual membership fee as set by decision of the Permanent Committee. Different membership fees are set for the following categories

- Individual members under 35 years of age
- Individual members from 35 to 65 years of age
- Individual members over 65 years of age
- Collective members

4. An individual member having residence in a country with an annual gross domestic product per capita below US\$ 2'000 may request a reduction of his annual membership fee. The same applies to a collective member having its seat in such a country. The minimum fees payable in each category are set by decision of the Permanent Committee.

5. The annual membership fees, and the minimum fees for countries according to Art. 4.4, can be adjusted by decision of the Administrative Committee according to inflation in Switzerland.

6. An individual member of at least 45 years of age, that has been a member of the Association for more than eight consecutive years and that has served IABSE and/or the Profession in a way as defined by the Executive Committee may be invited by the President to become a Fellow. Fellows pay in addition to their annual membership fee an annual fellow fee of CHF 200.

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7. Honorary Members are exempt from payment of membership fees
8. The Administrative Committee may terminate the membership of any person or organisation.

Organisation

Art. 5

1. The organisational units of the Association are:
 - the National Groups
 - the Permanent Committee
 - the Executive Committee
 - the Administrative Committee
 - the Technical Committee
 - Non-Technical and Technical Groups including the Working Commissions and Editorial Boards
 - the Auditing Committee.
2. Non-Technical and Technical Groups are set up by the Executive and Technical Committees, respectively, as need arises.
3. A Secretariat at the seat of the Association carries out the administrative work under the direction of the Executive Director.

National Groups

Art. 6

1. A National Group consists of all members of the Association having their residence, or for collective members their seat, in one country.
2. At least six members of the Association are required to set up and maintain a National Group.
3. The National Groups designate, according to their own rules, their delegates to the Permanent Committee.
4. National Groups may have their own By-laws. These shall not conflict with the By-laws and Standing orders of the Association.
5. National Groups are, in their field of influence, responsible for the active support of the objectives of the Association. They support the Association in particular through the nomination of members for election to different organisational units of the Association.
6. The Chairmen of the National Groups advise the President of the Association at meetings called and chaired by the President.



Permanent Committee

Art. 7

1. The Permanent Committee consists of the delegates of all National Groups.
2. The number of delegates from each National Group shall be:
 - Group with 6-24 members: 1 delegate
 - Group with 25-49 members: 2 delegates
 - Group with 50-99 members: 3 delegates
 - Group with 100-199 members: 4 delegates
 - Group above 200 members: 5 delegates.
3. When defining the number of delegates, the number of members of a National Group shall be determined on the basis of membership fees paid for the previous calendar year. Collective members shall be counted as two members.
4. A substitute may also be appointed for each delegate. The substitutes may participate at the meetings, but have the right to vote only when they are acting as the representative of a delegate.
5. The Permanent Committee shall meet at least once every year. Meetings will be called and chaired by the President of the Association, upon decision of the Executive Committee or the Administrative Committee, or upon request of at least one third of the membership of the Permanent Committee.
6. The Permanent Committee is the highest body of the Association. It determines the long-term objectives of the Association, encourages, promotes and controls its activities, and ensures that the necessary means are available.
7. The Permanent Committee elects:
 - the President and the Vice-Presidents of the Association
 - the Chairman of the Technical Committee
 - the Auditors.
8. The Permanent Committee approves upon the proposal of the Executive Committee:
 - the annual statement of accounts, the budget and the amount of the membership fees
 - Amendments to the By-laws.
9. The Permanent Committee can take valid decisions if the meeting has been called at least six weeks in advance, and if at least one third of its membership is present.
10. If the Permanent Committee cannot take valid decisions, such decisions are tentative. They shall be brought to the attention of all members of the Permanent Committee by mail and will be final if no more than one third of the Permanent Committee disapproves of them within three months.



11. Decisions on amendments of the By-laws shall always be brought to the attention of all members of the Permanent Committee. They will be final if no more than one third of the Permanent Committee disapproves of them within three months.

Executive Committee

Art. 8

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of:

- the President of the Association, as Chairman
- the President-Elect of the Association
- 5 to 11 Vice-Presidents
- the Chairman of the Technical Committee.

2. Members of the Administrative Committee who are not Members of the Executive Committee, including the Executive Director, shall participate at the meetings of the Executive Committee, without any voting right.

3. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once a year. Meetings are called by the Chairman, upon recommendation of the Administrative Committee, or upon request of at least one third of its membership.

4. The Executive Committee governs the Association, according to the By-laws and the decisions of the Permanent Committee, and represents the interests of the Association in all matters.

5. The Executive Committee submits to the Permanent Committee:

- proposals for amendments of the By-laws
- the annual statement of accounts, the budget and the proposed amount of membership fees
- proposals of candidates for President and Vice-Presidents of the Association and for Chair of the Technical Committee.

6. The Executive Committee:

- formulates and reviews the Standing orders governing the activities of the various organisational units of the Association
- establishes links with other organisations and designates IABSE contact persons
- defines the tasks and decides on the creation and the disbandment of Non-Technical Groups
- appoints the Vice-Chairman and Members of the Technical Committee
- assesses the activities of the Technical Committee
- appoints the Chairmen – usually Vice-Presidents of the Association - and Members of Non-Technical Groups

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- appoints the Members and defines the terms of reference of the Administrative Committee
 - appoints the Executive Director, upon recommendation of the Administrative Committee
 - elects Honorary members
 - creates prizes and distinctions, establishes their rules, and elects their laureates
 - decides on location, date and theme of conferences
 - decides on type and form of publications
7. The quorum of the Executive Committee shall be one half of its membership.
 8. The Executive Committee reports to the Permanent Committee.

Administrative Committee

Art. 9

1. The Administrative Committee shall consist of:
 - the President of the Association, as Chairman
 - the Chairman of the Technical Committee
 - the President-Elect of the Association
 - up to 2 additional Members
 - the Executive Director of the Association.
2. The Administrative Committee meets several times each year, as needed.
3. The Administrative Committee is responsible for the management of the Association under terms of reference laid down by the Executive Committee.
4. The quorum of the Administrative Committee shall be one half of its membership.
5. The Administrative Committee reports to the Executive Committee.

Technical Committee

Art. 10

1. The Technical Committee shall consist of:
 - the Chairman
 - the Vice-Chairman
 - 8 to 16 Members, including all Chairmen of the Working Commissions and Editorial Boards.



2. The Technical Committee shall meet, as a rule, twice a year. Meetings are called by its Chairman.
3. The Technical Committee is responsible for the scientific and technical activity of the Association.
4. The Technical Committee:
 - promotes, co-ordinates and assesses the activities of all Technical Groups
 - defines the tasks and decides on the creation and the disbandment of Technical Groups
 - is responsible for the scientific part of the Association's publications and sets up Editorial Boards for that purpose.
 - is responsible for the scientific part of the Association's conferences and sets up Scientific Committees for that purpose
 - elects the Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and Members of Technical Groups, including Working Commissions and Editorial Boards
5. The quorum of the Technical Committee shall be one half of its membership.
6. The Technical Committee reports to the Executive Committee.

Technical and Non-Technical Groups

Art. 11

1. Technical and Non-Technical Groups shall each consist of:
 - the Chairman
 - the Vice-Chairman
 - 2 to 16 members.
2. The term "Group" is a general term, which may denote any Working Commission, Working Group, advisory group, board, cabinet, commission, council, jury, panel, task force, think-tank, working party, committee, as set up either by the Executive or the Technical committees.
3. The Groups are, in their specific fields, responsible for the active support of the general objectives of the Association.
4. The Groups have specific objectives. They may establish links with other Groups.
5. Groups are disbanded upon completion of their tasks.
6. The Technical and Non-Technical Groups submit activity programmes to the Technical and Executive Committees, respectively. They report regularly on the progress of their work. The main results of their activity appear in publications and conferences of the Association.
7. Only members of the Association can be a member of a Group.

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8. The Chair of a Group decides about attendance of guests at meetings of a Group. Guests may be members or non-members of the Association.

Auditing Committee

Art. 12

1. The Auditing Committee consists of

- two internal Auditors and a substitute
- the external Auditors, a professional auditing company, appointed by the Permanent Committee, upon recommendation of the internal Auditors.

2. The accounts of the Association are checked by the Auditing Committee and submitted with their report to the Permanent Committee.

3. The internal Auditors check the implementation of instructions given by the Permanent and Executive Committees.

Terms

Art. 13

1. The President of the Association is elected for a period of three years and cannot be re-elected. He acts as President-Elect for the year preceding the three-year term as President.

2. In case of absence of the President, the President-Elect or, if he is not elected yet, the most senior Vice-President in terms of office and age, will be invited to act as the acting President.

3. Members of the Executive Committee, Administrative Committee, Technical Committee are elected for a term of four years with one re-election possible.

4. The Auditors are elected for a one-year term, with re-election possible.

5. Members of Groups are elected for a period in accordance with their mission. However, no member can be elected for more than two terms of four years in the same position.

6. Committee Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen - except for the President of the Association - are elected for a term of four years and cannot be re-elected.

7. The Executive Director is a permanent appointment.

Languages

Art. 14

1. The official languages of the Association are English, French and German.

2. Other languages may be used by request to and with the approval of the Executive Committee. When a Conference is held in a country where another language is spoken, that language can also be used for the duration of the Conference.

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Resources

Art. 15

1. The financial resources of the Association are:

- the annual membership fees
- the revenues of publications and of conference activities of the Association
- interests on deposit, contributions of sponsors, legacies and donations.

Dissolution

Art. 16

1. The Association can be dissolved only by decision of the Permanent Committee, and provided it has the absolute majority of all delegates of the Permanent Committee.

2. The Permanent Committee decides also, in case of dissolution, on the use of any residual assets, to be remitted to an institution with similar objectives. A distribution of the assets among the members is excluded.

Final Arrangements

Art. 17

1. These By-laws shall take effect on January 1, 2009. They replace the By-laws last revised in 1999.

Accepted at the 74th Meeting of the Permanent Committee of September 16, 2008 in Chicago, USA.

The President:
Jacques Combault

The Executive Director:
Ueli Brunner