

International Symposium on Waterproofing for Underground Structures

Opening Speech by Akira Koshima

(President of the Brazilian Tunnelling Committee - CBT)

First of all, I would like to express my welcome greetings to all participants and colleagues of this opening ceremony. Also my welcome greetings to the organisers: the International Tunnelling Association (ITA), Brazilian Tunnelling Committee (CBT) and Brazilian Society of Geotechnical Engineering (ABMS); to the supporters: Sao Paulo Institute of Engineering (IE), Sao Paulo Metro Company (Metro SP), Brazilian Society for Foundation Engineering (ABEF), Brazilian Society for Engineering Geology (ABGE), Brazilian Institute of Concrete (Ibracon) and Pini Publishers; and to our main sponsor Sika and the sixteen exhibitors. My special greetings to our friends of the organising committee of this symposium, chaired by Tarcisio Celestino, and particularly, I would like to mention only one name, Ricardo Telles, who led the organization of this event, without fading the participation of all other colleagues, and Acqua for the secretarial works.

As president of the CBT, I am extremely pleased to witness the opening of this International Symposium on Waterproofing for Underground Structures, where important and sensitive topics relating to the finishing and operation of underground works will be discussed, such as the state-of-the-art, the state-of-the-practice and future trends on tunnelling waterproofing.

Along its fifteen years of existence, the CBT has been aiming to be closer and closer to the Brazilian tunnelling community. Also a major effort has been made for a better interaction and communication between our national tunnelling community and the international one. The international community is gathered together by the ITA, and this association has also given continuous support to the CBT, making it stronger and internationally recognised. Recent examples of this support were: the ITA World Tunnel Congress, held in Sao Paulo (ITA WTC 1998), the International Symposium South American Tunnelling (SAT'2004), held together with the 1st Brazilian Congress on Tunnelling and Underground Structures, and now the jointed organisation of this symposium, where the theme waterproofing is specifically discussed for the first time here in Sao Paulo, for two days, by the international tunnelling community.

As you all know, this close interaction and friendship with the ITA are a result of the CBT efforts, via a continuous and steady action of Prof. André Pacheco de Assis, who brought the ITA WTC 1998 to Brazil and later, was elected ITA president for the term 2001-2004 and, at this present moment, is member of the ITA Executive Council, as Past President. Another

important action with the ITA has come from Prof. Tarcisio Barreto Celestino, who was recently elected animateur (chairperson) of the ITA Working Group WG-12, on Shotcrete for Underground Works.

I would like to take this opportunity to announce to our tunnelling community that as part of our strategy to disseminate the expertise and underground works carried out by the Brazilian engineering industry, the CBT is just finalising the book "Tunnels in Brazil", with 328 pages, which will bring up the history of tunnels in Brazil, as well cases built in foreign countries. This book is expected to come out by the middle of 2006, and to put it together we have been receiving a great amount of technical and financial support from our tunnelling industry.

In 2008, as happened in 2004, we will have the 2nd edition of the Brazilian Congress on Tunnelling and Underground Structures and also the second South American Tunnelling (SAT' 2008), and for these events, we are already counting on the support of the Brazilian and international tunnelling communities, in special the Latin American one, as well the ITA.

Finally, I would like to wish you all two days of profitable work, and also invite you for the technical visit to the works on the Sao Paulo Metro Line 2, on Wednesday.

My sincere thanks to all and have an excellent symposium.