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Concluding Session

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CONCLUDING SESSION

The following report was presented by Professor Shamsheer Prakash, Conference Chairman.

The conference had 210 paid participants from 34 countries:

Algiers	2	Mexico	2
Australia	2	Netherlands	3
Canada	11	New Zealand	1
Chili	2	Norway	1
China	7	Portugal	1
Czechoslovakia	1	Russia	1
France	8	Sichuan	1
Germany	5	Spain	2
Greece	1	Sweden	2
Hong Kong	2	Switzerland	1
India	3	Syria	1
Iran	3	Taiwan	1
Israel	1	Thailand	4
Italy	6	United Kingdom	5
Japan	26	United States	118
Korea	2	Venezuela	2
Kuwait	1	Vietnam	1

This conference is likely to lose \$40,000.00 because the budgeted number of paid registrants was 250. Our University will not welcome this situation in the future. Therefore, the following items from the minutes of the Organizing Committee were discussed:

1. The paid registration at this conference of 210 is in fact low. One of the reasons for the low enrollment is that we have many conferences going on in the world at the same time.
2. It was suggested that we may address questions, such as "Technology Transfer, Retrofit of existing buildings, bridges and other structures against seismic risk" and other similar questions so that the themes may have an appeal to the practicing engineers and builders in our future conferences. The themes for the future conferences may include:
 - (a) "Recent Advances"
 - (b) "State of Practice"
 - (c) "Technology Transfer"
 - (d) "Retrofit" and others
3. We may target specific groups for future solicitation of contributions (about 2000 maximum) rather than sending it to general mailings which run to 15,000 or 20,000 per mailing.

4. We may seriously consider changing the venue of the conference from St. Louis to Kansas City, Missouri or even to the University of Missouri at Rolla. The large expense of staying at a hotel for the participants reduces attendance.
5. We should somehow encourage participation of young engineers, 30 years or younger, by a special break in the fees. This may turn out to be profitable in the long run because more people will plan to come to a less expensive venue and at a reduced fee.
6. We may seek financial co-sponsorship from corporations (U.S. and foreign).

The floor was then opened for discussion by the participants. The highlights of the discussions were:

- (a) It was opined that two or three of the State of the Art presentations to this conference were comparable to the Terzaghi lectures. Also about 60 to 70 of the papers are very good quality. Therefore, the conference proceedings are very valuable. In conclusion, it was stated that in fact "quality" is the hallmark of these conferences. Therefore, there is a need to maintain the flavor and quality of these conferences, continue the effort and try to reduce the costs by adopting some of the measures discussed.
- (b) It was also emphasized that the "State of the Art" and "State of Practice" be suitably blended.
- (c) It was resolved unanimously that the Fourth Conference in the series be definitely planned by the University of Missouri-Rolla.
- (d) Professor Prakash proposed a vote of thanks to the authors, SOA speakers, Discussors, participants, Chairmen and Co-chairmen, General Reporters and Co-reporters, UMR staff, volunteers, hotel personnel and all others who contributed and have not been identified.

The conference adjourned at 12:45 p.m.