

The *fib* in Slovakia

The history of the *fib* in Slovakia starts in Czechoslovakia, in the 1960s, at a time when the Czechoslovak National Committee of the FIP, ČSNK FIP, was founded and engineering experts were enthusiastically joining the association. It was ČSNK FIP that organized the highly successful 6th International FIP Congress in Prague, in 1970.

In 1993, when Czechoslovakia split into the Czech Republic and Slovakia, the Slovak National Committee of the FIP, SNK FIP, was established and accepted into the FIP. SNK FIP became SNK *fib* in 1998, a voluntary association of institutions working in the field of structural concrete, including universities, design and construction companies, and research and investment organizations, all of which mostly have their activities in Slovakia.

The terms of membership and the mechanisms for members' financial contributions to the budget were

established at the inaugural meeting. The budget funded the *fib* membership fee for Slovakia as well as various SNK activities.

A longtime member of the former ČSNK FIP, *Gabriel Tevec*, who passed away recently, became the first president of the committee. Since its beginning SNK *fib* has been a group of experts from the Slovak Union of Civil Engineers (SZSI), with its own legal status and funds.

SNK FIP became known to the international engineering community for the first time at the FIP Congress in Washington, in 1994, where the 'Slovak Report on Prestressed Concrete 1990-94', published as a special issue of 'Inžinierske stavby' magazine, was presented. Twelve SNK FIP members attended the congress.

In the spring of 1995 the SNK FIP organized its first post-congress colloquium entitled 'Lessons from

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the FIP World Congress in Washington'.

Since 1994 SNK FIP/*fib* has organized two conferences every four years. In the year an *fib* congress is held the committee organizes a 'Concrete in Slovakia' pre-congress conference, which is a professional social gathering with both local and international participants. The best



SNK *fib* meeting and professional excursion in 2015



Underside of the the Považská Bystrica Bridge, an example of Slovak structural engineering

Photo credit: Miroslav Maťaščík

contributions from the conference are collected in a national report, which is printed and has been distributed at all the FIP/*fib* congresses since 1994. The sixth 'Concrete in Slovakia' national report was made available at the *fib* Congress in Mumbai, in 2014.

After *fib* congresses have been held, the SNK *fib* regularly organizes a post-congress colloquium entitled 'Findings of the *fib* World Congress', for which a team of experts prepares lectures on significant congress presentations for a professional audience. Both the pre-congress and post-congress conferences are accessible free of charge to university students specializing in structural concrete and to retired members.

National reports and conference and colloquium proceedings (in Slovak) can be viewed on our website (<http://www.fib-sk.sk/info/narodne-spravy/>).

SNK *fib* is also a co-organizer of industry-specific conferences and seminars organized by Slovak universities and professional groups.

Another popular event organized by SNK *fib* is Bridge Tuesdays, during which manufacturers, bridge builders and design firms present their latest products, technologies and the results of their activities.

SNK *fib* presents and promotes civil engineering works to the general public and awards outstanding

professionals with medals for the concrete structures they build in Slovakia as well as for their development of concrete technology and their promotion of concrete. SNK *fib* annually recognizes the best Slovak Master's theses in the field of concrete structures.

Members and member organizations of the SNK *fib* enjoy several benefits, such as having access to the digital archive of newsletters, to FIP/*fib* bulletins and the proceedings of conferences SNK *fib* members attend abroad. SNK *fib* meets twice a year. One of these occasions is a two-day meeting combined with excursions to view important complexes under construction. Meetings are lively, with discussions about current events in the industry in Slovakia and presentations by invited experts.

SNK *fib* has become a respected professional association that brings together the most influential Slovak institutions and companies in structural concrete. We aim to build on our reputation in the future.

Readers who would like more information can visit the SNK *fib* website at www.fib-sk.sk

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View of the Považská Bystrica Bridge

Photo credit: Peter Paulik