



IABSE SYMPOSIUM

COPENHAGEN 2026



BRIDGING ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES – STRUCTURAL INNOVATION

21-24 April 2026
Tivoli Congress Center, Copenhagen



PRELIMINARY INVITATION AND CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Message from the Organising Committee

The Danish Group of IABSE, has the great pleasure to invite the international structural engineering community to join us at the IABSE Symposium 2026 in Copenhagen.

The theme of the Symposium, “Bridging Advanced Technologies – Structural Innovation,” serves as a call for all engineers to come together, young and curious as well as ambitious and experienced. We encourage all of you to share papers on R&D projects, your lessons learned and real case studies. As we often learn most from the difficult times, where things did not go as planned, we ask you to be brave and also share the hard learned lessons.

The Symposium will provide a unique opportunity to share knowledge, learn from the experience of others and together set a new agenda for the future.

Denmark is a nation of Bridge Builders and Copenhagen is the perfect location for an International Symposium of the engineering community. Copenhagen combines historical, cultural landmarks with innovative modern architecture. Copenhagen is a ‘Green City’, with a strong emphasis on sustainability, from urban development to gastronomy and transportation, as the most bike-friendly city in the world.

Copenhagen currently ranks 2nd in the Global Destination Sustainability Index and aims to be the world’s first carbon neutral capital city. So come to Copenhagen, enjoy a free kayak-tour and collect waste from the water whilst seeing the many bridges from beneath, or go green on a bike ride whilst enjoying spectacular bridges and buildings.

We are excited to welcome old friends back to Copenhagen and even more excited to meet new friends from around the world in our wonderful city. We look forward to welcoming you to Copenhagen, Denmark, in April 2026 and to learn from your experience. Be brave.

Warm regards,
Barbara MacAulay, Chair of the Organising Committee.



Join Us for the Symposium in Copenhagen 2026 – 21st to 24th April 2026

Dear Friends

We, the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering (IABSE), are delighted to announce that the IABSE Symposium 2026 will take place in the beautiful city of Copenhagen, Denmark, from 21st to 24th in April, 2026. This premier event will bring together leading experts, researchers, and practitioners from around the globe to share insights, foster collaborations, and promote the exchange of knowledge and advance the practice of structural engineering worldwide in the service of the profession and Society at large.

The Danish Group of IABSE, has the great pleasure to invite the international structural engineering community to join us at the IABSE Symposium 2026 in Copenhagen. The theme of the event is “**Bridging Advanced Technologies – Structural Innovation**” having various topics / sub-themes - *Circular Construction, Structural Modelling & Structural Concepts, Codes and Standards, Material Technology, Data Driven Technologies and Automation and Robot Technologies*.

Copenhagen is one of Europe's most charming and vibrant cities, where you can also experience the charm of the beautiful city on a bike. It is the cycling capital of Europe, with its many bicycle and pedestrian bridges along the canals. You can immerse yourself in Copenhagen's rich history, home to iconic landmarks such as the Tivoli Gardens, the Little Mermaid statue, and the historic Nyhavn waterfront. The city also boasts architectural marvels like Rosenborg Castle and the modern Opera House, blending centuries of cultural heritage with contemporary design.

Another principal advantage of attending the Symposium is to **Engage with cutting-edge Research**: Learn from keynote speakers and presenters who are at the forefront of innovation; **Network with global peers**: Connect with thought leaders, researchers, and professionals; **Showcase your work**: Present your ideas to an engaged and diverse audience of Structural and Civil Engineers.

Don't miss this chance to contribute to the dialogue and make your mark on the Structural Engineering Community; whether you are an established expert or an emerging voice, we welcome your participation.

In addition to organising conferences and technical meetings, IABSE also encourages and conducts Continuing Professional Development and Education Programmes and publishes highly respected reports, communications and periodicals with far-reaching circulation.

On behalf of IABSE, I thank the Danish Group for organising the Symposium in **Copenhagen**. For further details and timeline of submissions, e.g. **Call for Abstracts, Submission Guidelines, Key Dates**, please refer to the brochure.

Dr Harshavardhan Subbarao
President-Elect IABSE

Motivation

The construction industry is responsible for a substantial part of the global CO₂ emissions, and the sector's traditional technical solutions are not sufficient to reduce emissions to the level set by the UN sustainability goals. At the same time, expanding and maintaining the built environment worldwide is crucial for achieving balanced living conditions, which is essential for the development of a socially sustainable global society. This presents a dilemma between environmental and social sustainability and calls for fundamental changes in the way the construction industry designs, constructs and maintains buildings and civil infrastructure. To facilitate discussions on these urgently required changes of paradigms, the Copenhagen IABSE Symposium will focus on how structural innovation based on advanced technologies can answer the most important question of our time for the structural engineering profession:

How can we expand and develop the built environment for the benefit of society, while at the same time preserving resources and possibilities for the future generations?

Within this frame, we invite all engineers and researchers to submit abstracts within the six themes listed on the next page.



Themes

The main themes are:

Circular Construction

Papers within this theme explore the developments taken place under the umbrella of circular construction philosophy and may e.g. concern:

- Design for disassembly and re-use
- Adaptable structures
- Use of recycled structural components and materials in new structures
- Operation and prolongation of structural service life

Structural Modelling & Structural Concepts

Papers within this theme explore the development and innovative application of all aspects of structural modelling and development/invention of structural concepts, and may e.g. concern:

- Numerical/analytical Modelling of structural behavior
- Optimal structural design
- Topology optimization
- Structural solutions with new materials

Codes and Standards

Papers within this theme explore the development in standardization of materials and processes and may e.g. concern:

- Dedicated or modified codes for new or untraditional materials
- Certification schemes
- Safety concepts

Material Technology

Papers within this theme explore the properties and structural use of known as well as new construction materials and may e.g. concern:

- Low or zero emission concrete, steel, and aluminum
- Novel composite materials (incl. GFRP & CFRP)
- Natural materials (wood, straw, soils)
- Structural experience with application and durability of new materials

Data Driven Technologies

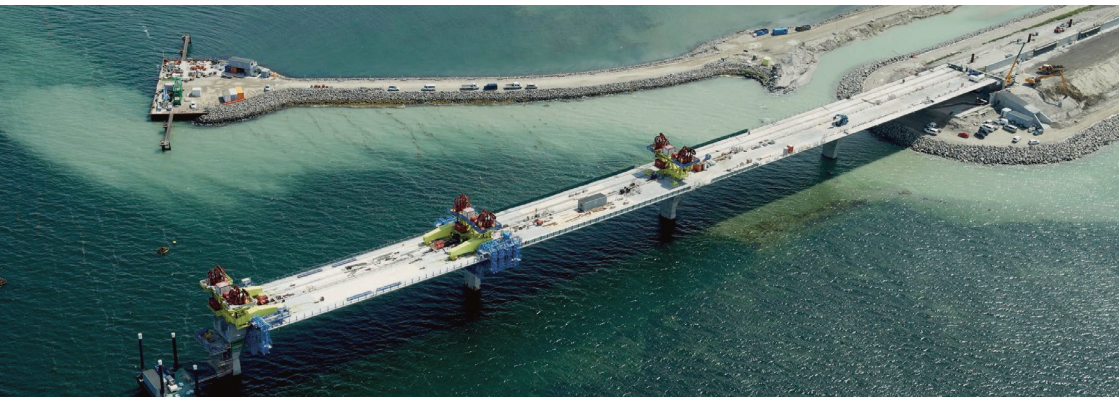
Papers within this theme explore the use of data driven technologies and AI in structural engineering and may e.g. concern:

- Digital twins
- Structural health monitoring
- Intelligent structures
- Machine learning

Automation and Robot Technologies

Papers within this theme explore the use of automation and robot technologies in structural/construction engineering and may e.g. concern:

- 3D printed structures and its potential to reduce material consumptions
- New construction methods
- Drones and robots in site inspection
- Active vibration control



Call for abstracts

Abstract submission link is now open. Please go to iabse2026.dk and submit your abstract. Authors are kindly invited to submit maximum 300 word abstracts through the online submission system. Title of your abstract: not more than 25 words.

Deadline for submissions is 24th April.

Authors will be notified of the acceptance of their abstracts in June 2025.

Authors are requested to specify under which of the 6 mentioned themes their contribution belongs.

Authors are strongly encouraged to submit abstracts on R&D projects, as well as on lessons learned and real case studies from practice. Papers comprising the above and which address how their contributions help to fulfilling relevant UN sustainability goals, e.g. in the form of quantifiable emission and/or material reduction, or in the form of prolongation of structural service life will be prioritized.



Time Schedule and Programme

The full technical programme of presentations and seminars in plenary and parallel sessions is under preparation and will be published in due time. An outline programme is included below.

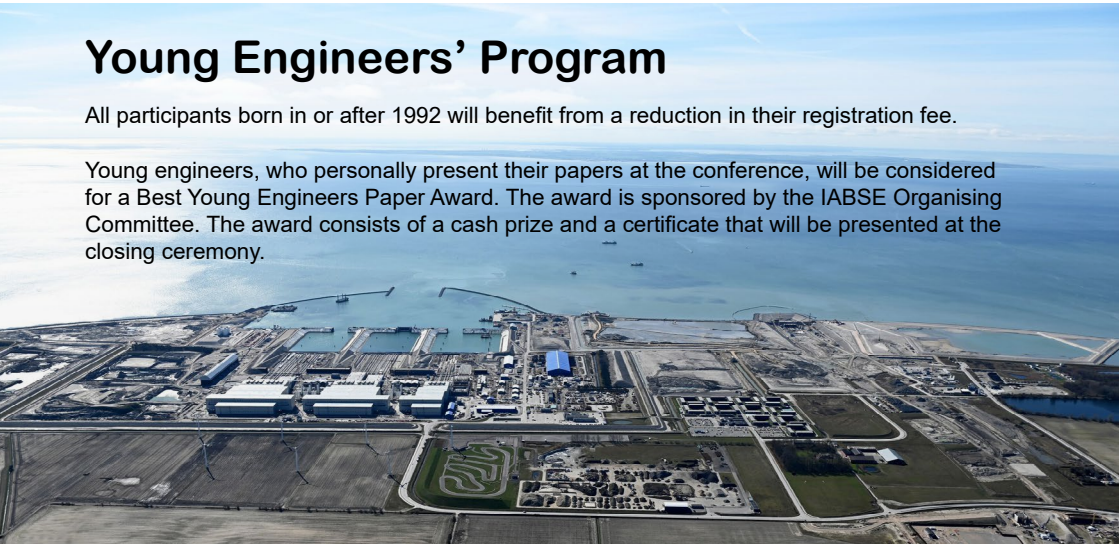
Abstract submission opens	15 January 2025
Abstract submission deadline	24 April 2025
Notification to authors	June 2025
Paper submission deadline	September 2025
Paper acceptance	October 2025
Final programme	December 2025
Final paper submission deadline	End January 2026
Early bird registration	Mid January 2026
Welcome reception	21 April 2026
2-Day conference	22-23 April 2026
Technical Tours	24 April 2026

Tuesday 21 April		Welcome Reception
Wednesday 22 April	Symposium Day 1 Including Key Notes, Technical and Special Sessions	
Thursday 23 April	Symposium Day 2 Including Key Notes, Technical and Special Sessions	Conference Dinner
Friday 24 April	Technical Tours	

Young Engineers' Program

All participants born in or after 1992 will benefit from a reduction in their registration fee.

Young engineers, who personally present their papers at the conference, will be considered for a Best Young Engineers Paper Award. The award is sponsored by the IABSE Organising Committee. The award consists of a cash prize and a certificate that will be presented at the closing ceremony.



Format of Symposium

We believe that a diverse combination of **young and curious** as well as **ambitious and experienced participants** is the recipe for a successful and interactive conference. Therefore, in addition to traditional keynote speeches and session presentations, **the conference will also feature invited presentations and panel discussions/master classes, where leading experts will tackle current challenges and dilemmas in the field of structural engineering.** This format aims to foster dynamic interaction between the younger and the experienced participants. Furthermore, a design/scientific competition for engineering students will be organized and special events for young engineers will be held throughout the conference.

Technical Tours

A number of Technical Visits will be provided on Friday the 24th of April. The Visits will be to various larger Projects such as : The Femern Belt Tunnel, The new Storestrøms Bridge, the Nordhavns Tunnel in Copenhagen, the many Bridges in Copenhagen.

The Technical Visits will be accessible to accompanying persons as well.



Femern Tunnel



Storstrøms Bridge



Nordhavns Tunnel



Copenhagens Bicycle Infrastructure



**The Forest Tower
(Skovtårnet)**



The Øresund Bridge

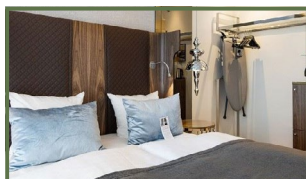
Venue

The congress will take place at
Tivoli Congress Center,
Arni Magnussonsgade 2, 1577 Copenhagen V.

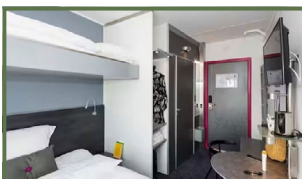


Accommodation

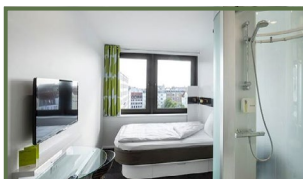
Hotel rooms at special conference rates have been prebooked for the participants in Tivoli Hotel and Wakeup Copenhagen.



Tivoli Hotel ****
Arni Magnussonsgade 2, 1577 Copenhagen V



CABINN Copenhagen **
Arni Magnussonsgade 1, 1577 Copenhagen V



Wakeup Copenhagen Hotel, C. Niebuhrs Gade ***
(next to Tivoli Hotel & Congress Center)
Carsten Niebuhrs Gade 11, 1577 Copenhagen V

Sponsors



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