

DISTRICT HeATING

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The IV IDHC Is Over, Long Live The V IDHC!

On May 14-17, 1980 in Brescia, Italy the Forth International District Heating Conference was held. Helge Nurmi attended the conference as the representative from IDHA. He recently received the following report on the conference from Evandro Sacchi, President of the Scientific Committee, and has given us permission to share Mr. Sacchi's report with you.

The IV International District Heating Conference has come to an end, and it's time for a final survey, the outcome of which is positive both in terms of its content and of participation.

There were:

- 72 papers, prepared by 120 authors from 18 different countries, now collected in three volumes which have just been published;
- 4 general reports on the fundamental themes of the Conference and 5 area reports, as well as other contributions, such as the communications of the National Research Council on the relationship between energy and territory in Italy;
- more than 500 participants from 25 countries of the world; and
- 20 hours of conference work.

There were many other interesting and pleasant hours spent during the intense and varied social program of the conference.

The importance of the East-European countries contribution should be stressed. Approximately a third of the papers were presented by authors of the Socialist area.

Many positive aspects of the IV IDHC could be mentioned, but foremost among these is the fact that so many people from different cultural origins, united by their interest in district heating, were able to meet. Some were renewing their friendships, others were meeting for the first time, but all were convinced that technology provides a common meeting point and helps to further understanding between people of different nations.

Some came from very far: from Harbin in Manchuria, Tokyo, and Iceland. Many came, but not all, and for this we are sorry. In the presented reports the absence of Austria, Sweden, China, Yugoslavia and Roumania should be mentioned. We regret the absence of the district heating experts from these countries and hope to see them at our future meetings.

But above all the conference was rich in content. The diffusion of the district heating technique and its new lines of development in all parts of the world were placed in full evidence: in the East-European areas with nuclear high potential power stations and long distance heat transport pipelines in low-density housing areas where the system increases its capacity

of economic penetration; on the American continent where district heating is placed in relation to the wide possibilities of geothermal resources. Both countries with a market economy and countries with a socialist economy agree on the need for a policy of vigorous development of district heating, considering the energy crisis, which makes the system energetic, economical and ecological in a very evident way.

The technique of district heating has a high degree of reliability. The building problems of the heat distribution network (materials, positioning, solution of questions about expansions or corrosion), as well as the problems of regulation and operation control can now be solved, even in difficult cases.

The research presently carried out in this field mainly deals with the decay in time of the thermo-insulating material properties and with the reduction of network costs. The latter being an aspect which becomes fundamental because the growing cost of primary energies and their diversification drive us to the adoption of more and more wide systems. Research regarding the application of heatpumps in the district heating systems is also of great interest.

The conference has then confirmed a general trend of system and building services design: the generalized computer application for district heating design as well as for its operation. This is meant to minimize the total cost of energy use through a better control of the numerous factors which play an important role in any optimization problem.

The IV IDHC has moreover registered another important aspect—the district heating operators willingness to communicate and be united. This confirms what already happened at the 1979 UNICHAL Congress in Stockholm. In this connection the significant presence of the UNICHAL (Union des distributeurs de la chaleur) and IDHA Presidents has been much appreciated.

As a matter of fact, all the district heating engineers, operators and research workers, through considering the problems of this field in all their aspects, are now aware that collaboration is the right way to be followed. During the conference some meetings have been held in the frame of this trend: in particular it has been suggested that the V IDHC should take place about the end of 1982, rather than in 1984. This in order to schedule the conference according to the international program of the conventions and single association meetings of this field which has been accepted by the interested associations until the year 2000.

The IV IDHC Scientific Committee has furthermore designated USSR as the country where the next conference will take place. The Soviet delegation will submit this proposal to the authorities of their country in the coming months. In the past when a king died his heir was immediately acclaimed by people shouting "Long live the King!"—life and history go on.

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