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SOME PERSONAL NOTES ON HALF CENTURY OF IAHR-LAD CONGRESSES

BY RAUL LOPARDO

It is my honor to convey to the new generation of members of IAHR some concepts that I have collected over nearly half a century during which time I have attended the IAHR Regional Latin American Congresses (LAD). My first experience of participation in this event, that has become a classic in our continent, took place when I returned to Argentina after completing my doctorate in France. It was December 1968 and I had four years of experience working as hydraulic engineer. There, I started my first presentation at the III Congress celebrated in the cities of Buenos Aires and La Plata. The photograph shown in Figure 1 was taken in front of the venue of the III Congress of the LAD.

I was fortunate to meet, in that third Congress, personalities such as Arthur Ippen and James Wallace Daily (at that time the President of IAHR), and the outstanding Professors, Francisco Javier



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1969 he has worked at the National Water Institute (INA) in Argentina, where he has taken different positions: Head of the Research Team, Director of the Hydraulics Laboratory, Scientific Manager and Director. He has participated in hydraulic modeling studies of many large dams, and delivered post-graduate courses in Argentina, Colombia, Paraguay, Brazil, India and Spain. He served as Chair of the IAHR LAD and as member of the IAHR Council; he is a member of the National Academies of Engineering and, Physical and Natural Sciences of Argentina. He has published more than 200 articles on macro turbulent flows, cavitation, local scour and hydraulic modeling
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Figure 1. Attendance to the III IAHR LAD Congress celebrated in the cities Buenos Aires and La Plata, 1968

engineering sciences, the concepts of our teachers, the interest in experimentation and the commitment to serve society.

It was the year 2002, and as a President of the Regional Committee, I gave the inaugural speech of the Congress in La Habana. I felt then that I had fulfilled my dream and that my relationship with the activities of the LAD would finish quickly. Luckily, events did not turn that way, and even at this moment I am still planning some presentations in the near future.

Furthermore, apart from what I learned in all our congresses and the illusion of having contributed during their technical sessions, the most valuable thing was to have known and enjoyed the friendship of Lincoln Alvarado, Alejandro López, Francisco Domínguez, Eduardo Varas, Ramón Fuentes, Arturo Marcano, Julián Aguirre Pe, Luis Teixeira, Rafael Guarga, Nelson Pinto, Marcelo Marques, Jaime Iván Ordóñez, Raquel Duque, Ciro Menéndez, José Antonio Maza Álvarez, Nahún García Villanueva, Arturo Rocha, Julio Kuroiwa, Diosdado Pérez Franco, Cristóbal Mateos, Ramón Gutiérrez and José María Grassa, and many other young and not so young people from Argentina, the rest of Latin America and Spain. They are part of the most pleasant memories and doubtless of my biggest success through many congresses, beyond the experimental hydraulics, spillway design, cavitation by pressure fluctuations and macro turbulent flows. ■

Resumen

Desde que en 1968 expuse mi primera contribución en el III Congreso Latinoamericano de Hidráulica en Buenos Aires, al actual XXXII Congreso a desarrollarse en Lima ha transcurrido casi medio siglo. Durante ese lapso el mundo ha tenido severos cambios socioeconómicos y tecnológicos que se han reflejado en nuestros encuentros bianuales. Hemos tenido el desafío de atravesar exitosamente las revoluciones informática, de las comunicaciones y ambiental sin perder la esencia de las ciencias básicas de la ingeniería hidráulica, los conceptos de nuestros maestros, el interés por la experimentación y la vocación de servir a la sociedad. Pero además de lo mucho que he aprendido en todos nuestros congresos y la ilusión de haber aportado algo en sus sesiones técnicas, lo más valioso ha sido el haber conocido y disfrutado de grandes amigos de muy diversos países. Ellos forman parte del más grato recuerdo y seguramente de mi mayor éxito a lo largo de tantos congresos, más allá de la hidráulica experimental, el diseño de aliviaderos, la cavitación por pulsos de presión y la macro turbulencia.

Domínguez and Sergio Montes from Chile, José Leite de Souza from Brasil, Enzo Levi from Mexico, Marcelo González from Venezuela, and other prominent researchers from our continent who were welcomed by the Argentineans José Gandolfo, Roberto Cotta and Horacio Caruso.

Since that meeting, I have never stopped contributing as an author or co-author to every IAHR LAD Congress, including this year's Congress in Lima. This is a record of 48 consecutive years. I feel then indissolubly joined to this event and my career in applied research and technological development can be followed easily by simply following over the years the titles of the topics of my contributions in these Congresses.

Those romantic and rebellious young people of the late sixties had an Herculean task to fulfill our vocation as engineers and teachers in hydraulic engineering over half a century of Latin American Congresses. The largest and most difficult task was to predict the impact of the continuous changes and to adapt ourselves to the increasingly fast and important advances of technology, without losing the essence of the basic hydraulic