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## Preface

Tradition of the Czech and Slovak Conference on Steel Structures and Bridges was founded in 1953, when the first Conference, organized by Slovak Academy of Sciences, was held in Smolenice. Then the Conference was continuing in Prague in 1954, 1956 and 1958 and in Rožnov pod Radhoštěm in 1961. The 50-years tradition of the Conference has been developed into a significant scientific and professional event for Central European steel researchers, designers, contractors and producers. The last Conference was organized by Brno University of Technology in Brno, The Czech Republic. It is our pleasure to organize already the **23<sup>rd</sup> Czech and Slovak Conference “Steel Structures and Bridges 2012”** in cooperation with Slovak Association of Steel Construction and Czech Constructional Steelwork Association and to welcome participants to present the newest results and information related to steel structures and bridges. The Conference is taking place in The High Tatras, one of the most beautiful areas in Slovakia.

In accordance with the tradition, the Conference offers a platform to discuss a wide range of problems related to a great variety of research, design and construction activities. The Conference main topics are oriented to the following problems of steel structures and bridges:

- research and development projects,
- new materials and structural performance,
- innovative steel and composite structures for bridges and buildings,
- user's experience with the building management, maintenance and retrofitting.

The Conference Scientific Committee has selected 89 papers, submitted from 12 countries, for oral and poster presentation. The issue of the *Procedia Engineering* contains full text of papers presented at the Conference “Steel Structures and Bridges 2012”. The contributions cover state-of-the-art of current activities in the field of steel and composite structures and bridges. For the first time, the Proceedings are published in an electronic way. All papers presented in this issue were reviewed by the members of the Scientific Committee. Editors gratefully appreciate their voluntary work.

This new style of publication of the papers enables their fast, broad and free worldwide dissemination. We believe that this will essentially increase the impact of the Conference on the community dealing with the research, design and construction of steel structures and bridges.

We would like to express our gratitude to members of the Organizing Committee for significant technical help and also to sponsors for financial support of the Conference.

The Conference Organizing Committee believes that the enthusiasm of the authors will guarantee the success of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Czech and Slovak Conference “Steel Structures and Bridges 2012” and will contribute to stimulate both developments in the field and cooperation between participants. We sincerely hope, you will enjoy the stay in The High Tatras, as well.

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