Challenges & Changes TUNNELING ACTIVITIES IN IN JAPAN 1994

APAN TUNNELLING ASSOCIATION

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PREFACE



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Tunnels expand the foundation of human activity. Therefore, very naturally, most tunnels are constructed as public works, or quasipublic works which receive subsidies of public money. Consequently, from the taxpayers' standpoint, it is desired that construction cost be held to a minimum. However, from the users' standpoint, satisfactory function and lasting durability in terms of safety and pleasantness are desired. In order to simultaneously satisfy these contradictory demands, a compromise must be found from a broad viewpoint in the planning and design of a tunnel. To this end, advance investigations of the geological conditions at the planned location of the tunnel are of course essential. Especially, I want to emphasize the importance of advance investigations, including investigations during the progress of construction, in those cases where the geological conditions are predicted to be complex and quickly changing.

Although investigation technology has not yet reached a level of development where the results of geological investigations can be expected to be perfectly accurate, marked advancement has been achieved compared to the past. Although no particular mention is made in this booklet regarding geological investigations, I wish the reader to understand that detailed geological investigations have been performed for the planning and design of all the tunnel projects which are introduced here.

I will be pleased if the information presented in this booklet will be of assistance in the construction of similar tunnel projects. I wish to add that the Japan Tunnelling Association is always cooperative with requests for more detailed information.

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