

Introduction: France and seismicity through the ages

France and seismicity have a long common history. The first testimony of an earthquake on French territory is from 463 AD. From this event up to the arrival of modern seismology, no less than 6000 testified earthquakes were recorded, some with dramatic consequences. Seismic risk is part of our history and the French community were early to participate in enhancing knowledge in seismology as the installation of seismic stations from the very beginning of the XIXth century shows. The development of large facilities dedicated to earthquake engineering from the end of the 70's up to the 90's such as the TAMARIS platform in Saclay shows how France addresses challenging issues related to seismic vulnerability.

AFPS: Sharing experience and stimulate risk reduction

AFPS, the French Association for Earthquake Engineering, was created in 1983. It was involved in many actions, including: R&D activities, code and standard elaboration, publishing technical guides and simplified design rules. AFPS works with French Ministries in charge of risk prevention and emergency management.

Since its origin, AFPS has been continuously gathering and sharing experience with the largest scientific community as well as with the public. As an example, **post-earthquake survey missions were conducted by AFPS** after many large earthquakes worldwide since Mexico 1985, to learn, to improve design rules and to disseminate knowledge. This quasi-unique initiative has allowed more than 300 AFPS members to go on the field and to come back with an irreplaceable experience!

Support of the French Candidacy: The whole community behind us

The French Minister for the Ecological Transition, Mrs. Barbara Pompili on behalf of the French government, fully supports the initiative of AFPS to host the 18WCEE in France. In addition, the **President of Grand Lyon urban district**, Bruno Bernard, with the city of Lyon and the surrounding cities invites the international earthquake engineering community to come to Lyon for this exceptional event.

The French candidacy is also fully supported by more than 30 organizations, and well-recognized experts from our community are part of our supports.

The positive replies and supports received so far clearly show that France would not only be proud to host the 18WCEE but also a large part of the international earthquake engineering community supports and is behind our tender.

The Organizing Committee: A vision for 18WCEE

France has already applied for hosting the WCEE twice, but unfortunately, has never been selected. However, thanks to its strong motivation to stimulate and contribute to international exchanges, AFPS has decided that France would apply again to host the 18WCEE in 2024.

An Organizing Committee (OC) was then created, composed of 30 people from AFPS and other stakeholders from the whole French community. This team is also accompanied by a Professional Congress Organizer.



In addition, the OC set up an **International Scientific and Advisory Committee (ISAC)** to gather fields of expertise, to make sure the proposed program will fit the needs of the largest community and to ensure scientific excellence. Today, the ISAC has already got a positive reply of 30 members from 23 countries (action still in progress).

Location and Venue: Easy to reach, ideal for conferencing!

Lyon benefits from the second largest public transport system in France, subway, tramway, busses and 4 100 bicycles available throughout the city. **The city of Lyon has been appointed the European Capital of Smart Tourism** by the European Commission. Lyon has also been known as the “Gastronomic Capital of the World” since 1935.

A “serenity charter” commitment, put in place in compliance with health requirements, will bring safety in the context of health crisis such as COVID-19.

The venue, La Cité Internationale, designed by Renzo Piano, is located in an exceptional environment with a privileged setting between the Rhône River shores and the La Tête d’Or Park, and has a direct access to downtown. The venue can easily accommodate a conference attendance of 3000 to 4000 participants.

The date of the conference is chosen between the dates of the Olympic and Paralympic Games to avoid any interferences between 18WCEE and these outstanding events also planned in France in summer 2024.

Scientific program: keeping habits and moving forward

The 18WCEE will include the usual program. The scope will also cover a broad range of areas and will include some 17WCEE initiatives supported by IAEE such as “Greet the Masters” and “Brainstorming” sessions.

New format sessions are proposed, such as on-line streaming keynotes and invited speakers, My thesis in 180s, E-poster & pitches, Agoras and Geographical-scale sessions, which will gather experts from multiple fields to share new findings about a specific area.

One specific proposal that came out of the OC and ISAC is a strong willingness of promoting interest among young generations. A special opportunity to young scientists to join the 18WCEE “Free of Fee & Flight” will be given. The selection will be based on diversity considerations, upon proposals from IAEE delegates, following IAEE Initiatives for Developing Countries, and scientific review by ISAC. **50 young scientists are expected to be granted “Free of Fee & Flight”!**

Program extension: Bridging earthquake and culture and connecting 18WCEE to Society

In addition to the scientific program reserved for conference participants, activities open to as many people as possible will be setup in order to create bridges between experts and public of all ages. In this perspective, a **para-scientific program will be built** around cine-debate, educational workshop enabling to experiment earthquakes. It will be an opportunity to link art and earthquakes through photography, urban sketching, music and architecture. For this, evening sessions will be available, which will combine scientists, public, art, and gastronomy in the same area!

To propagate the Olympic Games spirit that will be the mood in France in summer 2024, some sport activities will also be proposed to scientists as well as to the public.



Budget: Being attractive, not making business!

The budget has been defined to include all of the above proposals. It includes hire of venue, catering, participants' packs, publishing, artworks, conference organization & tools, young scientists program and social programs. The budget includes the 5% fee to IAEE and keeps a 10% contingency / uncertainties at this stage.

Based on this detailed preliminary budget (2.0 to 2.2 M €), **attractive conference fees are proposed**, especially for very early bird registration. This leads to a 450 € fee for all very early registrations and for academics, and a 300 € fee for students.

Conclusion: Our privilege to welcome you in Lyon in 2024

The whole 18WCEE Lyon 2024 OC took great pleasure to shape this proposal and hope it will convince you to hold the conference in this incredible, vibrant city.

To summarize our main goals:

- to gather the widest range of disciplines, cultures, origins and views, in a sustainable development spirit,
- to create platforms to exchange within our community and with the public,
- to encourage young generations to contribute to our domain,
- to make the 18WCEE an unforgettable event.

Toward an Innovative and Multi-Cultural Vision of Earthquake Engineering

To learn more: <http://www.afps-seisme.org/AGENDA/18WCEE-Lyon-2024>

