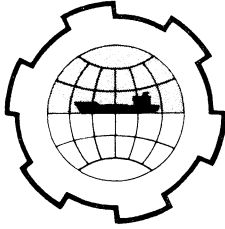


PORT AND OCEAN ENGINEERING UNDER ARCTIC CONDITIONS
TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF NORWAY



TROMSØ SESSION
WELCOME ADDRESS

by

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Tromsø, Norway

Mr. President,
Honoured members of the conference.

May I have your attention for a few minutes to give you a general view of Tromsø and what the future most likely will demand. I shall be brief.

From the very dawn of history throughout the centuries, the population in the Tromsø territory has based its existence on the sea. The oldest ship found in the Tromsø territory dates back to about year 700, or approximately 1300 years ago. This ship shows that our ancestors handled seagoing vessels with a crew of more than 20. This activity has continued, and today you will find vessels from Tromsø all over the North Atlantic, from the Barents Sea over to Baffin Bay, west of Ireland and even along the western coast of Africa.

The quantity brought to shore in the city of Tromsø amounts to 70 million pounds per year and is still increasing.

Looking at the surroundings it seems natural that a village or a society established itself along the channel of Tromsø, very early in the history. The real townhood came however in 1844, when Tromsø formally got rights and duties as a town by the King.

Today Tromsø is in the middle of a rapid expansion, maybe too rapid. The population is close to 40.000 and is estimated at 70.000 within 1980. The main reason for this growth is the initiation of the

University of Tromsø. The rest is due to normal development within the existing activities. The education system in Tromsø is, by the way, comparatively well developed. In this connection the maritime schools should be mentioned. Further it seems clear that Tromsø will be the center of all higher education in the fishing trade, and this again will be connected with the university.

It appears that the greater part of the coming general development will be related to new activities, especially within the fields of education and administration. Still it is clear that fishing will remain the main pillar of the economic life of the town, although the predominance will somewhat decrease. Without the fisheries there will be no foundation for other activities worth mentioning. The sea is our being.

I have tried to bypass the oil business, keeping it in the dark, but in vain. Let me put it briefly this way: Based on summary investigations, experts say that right outside the doorstep of Tromsø there are geological conditions that evidently indicate a probability of large-scale oil fields even more extensive than those in the North Sea. And into the bargain: The drilling and operating conditions may be far easier. If this should really be true, none of us can predict the trend of the economic development.

At the same time there are people, maybe a minority, who say; Let us leave the oil wells alone for a while, and let a coming generation with better know-how and better equipment handle it. They may be in a greater need and have a greater ability to accomplish the pumping without any danger of contaminating the sea. I am a member of this minority myself. Surely, we feel very uneasy about the increasing pollution of the oceans, especially because the Gulf Stream crosses the Atlantic, sweeps along our coast and continues straight into the Barents Sea, the cradle of all the fish species that we depend upon.

The foregoing shows that Tromsø is in a state of development characterized by a great number of problems. The aim however, can be simply put forth this way: The coming expansion shall be prepared in advance and accomplished in such a manner that the natural resources we are surrounded by can be maintained. And truly; Tromsø is a rich town, if not in money then in fish and wildlife, clean

sea and clean nature. It is a good town to live in although the weather nearly always is bad.

However, no town is on its own able to follow up such a goal as mentioned. Know-how and expertise from the outside is of vital importance. To us this need of expertise is mainly within the fields associated with port and ocean. And so, it is with a special understanding the town of Tromsø wishes the members of the conference welcome.

Believe me: our problems concern every one of you, and the work anyone of you is carrying out concerns us. Any problem that anyone of you is able to solve in a proper manner, will be of benefit to us.

There is nothing particular new in this resumé of the situation in Tromsø. To sum it all up, it is a fragment of a worldwide serious matter of being. The total problem however, may be more easily understood here than elsewhere, because of the circumstances and historical background.

Mr. President,

I have the honour of addressing you on behalf of the town, hoping that the conference will fulfill your expectations and that many such conferences will follow.

Life began with and within the sea, and life shall be maintained from the sea. May the future give you resources and working conditions so that research can be carried on to the benefit of the whole world.

