



The Chirajara Bridge Collapse

Christos T. Georgakis

Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark

Yozo Fujino

Yokohama National University, Yokohama, Japan

Siegfried Hopf, Michael Müller, Francisco Subirá

Leonhardt Andrä und Partner, Stuttgart, Germany

Klaus H. Ostenfeld

KHO Consult, Copenhagen, Denmark

S. Eilif Svensson

ES Consult, Copenhagen, Denmark

Lasse Hindhede, Martin J. Krogstrup

Rambøll, Esbjerg, Denmark

Thomas Rumpelt

Smoltczyk und Partner, Stuttgart, Germany

Contact: cg@eng.au.dk

Abstract

On January 15, 2018 at 11:49, the west pylon (B) of the cable-stayed Chirajara Bridge collapsed during construction of the bridge girder. The crossing is located approximately 20km NW of Villavicencio, Colombia. The collapse led to the total destruction of Pylon B, together with the erected span of the bridge girder. Authorities reported nine fatalities resulting from the collapse. Shortly thereafter, the project insurer QBE Segures, Colombia commissioned an independent investigation into the collapse of the bridge, through loss adjusters ONC Adjusters, Bogotá, Colombia. An international team of engineering experts was assembled to undertake the investigation. The investigation was completed in August, 2018. Key findings and recommendations from the investigation are presented herewith.