Concrete rises to the top Down Under

SPECIAL FEATURES:
- Concrete 2017 and 3rd ICDC
- Large Floating Concrete Structures
- High Rise Design & Construction
- Towards Green Concrete
- Melbourne fib 2018 Congress
OUR INTERNATIONAL STANDING

Recently I was fortunate enough to spend some time at the headquarters of the American Concrete Institute (ACI). The time spent there was incredibly valuable on many fronts, with respect to our international profile and strategic direction. But, I also had a moment of reflection as to how far we have come on the world stage.

On the ACI Honour Boards was a very important Honorary Member in the 1996 inductees — Mr W.G.J. (Mick) Ryan. Mick, who is also an Honorary Member and Past President of the Concrete Institute of Australia, is the only Australian to be honoured as such by the ACI. In the two decades that have passed since this honour was bestowed on him, the Institute and its Members have been taking great strides in developing a greater profile, making a real impact on concrete research, technology, application, design, and construction.

Our standing in the international concrete market is perhaps defined not better than the decision by the International Federation for Structural Concrete (fib) to entrust the Concrete Institute of Australia with the enormous task of hosting their Congress in 2018 in Melbourne. The fib Congress is held once every four years and is a forum for concrete leaders from all parts of the world to come together for a week of cutting-edge technical papers, commission meetings, and high level keynote presentations.

How international concrete groups are engaging with the Institute can also be exemplified by the Institute being a member of the Asian Concrete Federation (ACF), and this has led to our profile growing in the world’s biggest concrete market. The Institute is a valued member of ACF due to the high quality research work being undertaken by our Members, but also our ability to bridge gaps across borders due to our multicultural membership base.

Another example of our international standing is when the Institute was chosen to host the 69th RILEM Week in 2015, which led to a number of worldwide influential and experienced industry figures taking part in the conference. This provided us not only with their knowledge, but also the opportunity for our Members to display theirs on a global stage. Our International Partner Agreement with RILEM means we are well-positioned to share information overseas. And our relationship and profile with ACI continues to grow, and members of both groups are benefiting. Excellent documents are being compiled by our Durability committee that are being recognised by the highly influential ACI 201 Durability committee as important resources. With our ACI sub-committee also contributing to a number of ACI technical committees, more and more of the research and practice taking place Down Under is being disseminated to the USA, and vice versa.

You will note in this issue of Concrete in Australia that Concrete 2017 is rapidly approaching. The International Congress for Durability of Concrete (ICDC) chose our conference to be the forum for their 2017 event, whilst we have also attracted keynote speakers and technical papers from many parts of the globe. We will welcome these world concrete experts to Adelaide in October to learn from their experiences, and look forward to showing off how our Members can influence the rest of the world.

David Millar
CEO, Concrete Institute of Australia

MOVERS AND SHAKERS

Professor Chien Ming Wang
has been appointed as the Transport and Main Roads (TMR) Chair Professor Structural Engineering in the School of Civil Engineering at The University of Queensland (UQ).

As a chartered structural engineer, Wang’s research interests are wide, covering areas in structural stability, vibration, optimisation, plates/shells, nano-structures, computational mechanics and large floating structures.

He has made significant contributions to these areas by authoring over 400 journal papers, five books, has edited four other books and been involved in several conference proceedings. Wang has been listed as the most cited researcher in civil engineering in the Shanghai ranking for academic subjects 2016 and is globally renowned for his work on very large floating structures (VLFS) that find many applications such as floating oil storage facilities, bridges, restaurants, and piers/berths.

Wang’s most recent journal articles in 2017 include ‘An approximate model for optimising Bernoulli columns against buckling’, ‘Semi-analytical solutions for optimal design of columns based on Hencky bar-chain model’ (both published in Engineering Structures); and ‘Small length scale coefficient for Eringen’s and lattice-based continuumised non-local circular arches in buckling and vibration’ (published in Composite Structures).

Professor Simon Washington
has been appointed Head of School, Civil Engineering at the University of Queensland. He is recognised internationally for his contributions in the field of transportation and travel, in particular behavioural econometrics applied in transport and urban planning, transport safety and risk across all travel modes, and travel behaviour.

Simon is also associate editor or editorial advisory board member on six leading international transport journals. He has authored or co-authored more than 100 peer-reviewed journal articles and a second edition of a textbook adopted in over 20 countries, as well as six book chapters. Prior to joining UQ, Simon served on the faculties of Queensland University of Technology, UC Berkeley, Arizona State University, University of Arizona, and the Georgia Institute of Technology. Washington has also been a visiting professor at Ajou University (South Korea), University of Sydney, and Loughborough University (UK).