

Preface

Society owes a lot to concrete! It is difficult to imagine a built environment without this widely used building material. However, society faces today several challenges with respect to concrete and concrete structures. How to deal with the obsolescent existing concrete infrastructure? How to take advantage of the various new types of innovative concrete? How to improve concrete structures' sustainability? These are only a few examples of the numerous questions that need to be addressed.

The *fib* symposia present a unique opportunity to exchange the latest ideas, developments, innovations and techniques on concrete and concrete structures among those that contribute to solving the great societal challenges in one way or another. Since both research and engineering practice should work together in this task, "High tech concrete: Where technology and engineering meet" was chosen as theme for the 2017 *fib* Symposium in Maastricht.

These proceedings contain 322 technical papers and three keynote lectures presented at the 2017 *fib* Symposium. All papers were peer reviewed by the International Scientific Committee and other leading experts in the field, resulting in the excellent quality of the published papers. Their efforts and critical suggestions are greatly acknowledged. These proceedings will be indexed by reference academic organisations.

Most of the papers deal with modelling, testing and design of concrete and concrete structures. In line with societal demands, many papers deal with existing structures, their structural assessment, durability and lifetime, strengthening and repair techniques, detailing, innovative types of concrete and sustainability. Safety and design codes of course play an important role as well. In line with the symposium theme, there are several papers on challenging projects and innovative building concepts developed by prominent engineering practices worldwide, as well as contributions on historic concrete and the way our predecessors built.

We are delighted that about 800 authors from more than 45 countries were willing to share their latest achievements with others. We are convinced that the symposium and the proceedings will help bring together research and practice and lead them one step further in meeting the demands of modern society. We want to thank everyone that contributed to these proceedings and the 2017 *fib* Symposium.

Dick Hordijk
Editor and Chair Organising Committee

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