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Editorial

Foreword

In July 2011, over 600 participants from all over the world attended the 13th International Conference on Wind Engineering (ICWE13) in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. This is the official international conference of the International Association of Wind Engineering (IAWE), and it is organized every 4 years. The series started in 1963 in Teddington, UK, and has traveled around the world since then. The conference in Amsterdam attained the largest attendance so far in this series, which illustrates the increasing importance that wind and its effects have on our life, work and environment.

The conference was organized by the Netherlands-Flanders Association on Wind Engineering, a small but very active organization. The members of the local organization team represented both university and research institutes and together covered the wide range of subjects in wind engineering, with structural wind engineering, environmental wind engineering and wind energy as main conference tracks.

We have enjoyed five exciting conference days. The conference program included 6 keynote lectures, covering themes of specific and current interest to the field. The opening keynote lecture was related to the reduction of wind related disasters. It was given by Ms. Margareta Wahlström, Assistant Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction of the United Nations, and responsible for UN/ISDR (United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction). Following this keynote, a special session on the IAWE working group IG/WRDRR (International Group for Wind-Related Disaster Risk Reduction) was held. The IG/WRDRR is chaired by Professor Yukio Tamura of Tokyo Polytechnic University, the current President of the IAWE. It is expected that this keynote and special session will provide a strong and further impetus to the collaboration between the UN and the IAWE on the very important topic of mitigation of wind-related disasters.

Another special keynote lecture was given by Dr. Nick Isyumov of the University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario Canada, commemorating the long list of extraordinary achievements of the late Professor Alan Davenport. This lecture was entitled: "Alan G. Davenport's mark on wind engineering." For many participants, this was a strong and emotional moment at this conference. The other distinguished keynote speakers were Professor Chris Baker, University of Birmingham, UK (Lecture entitled: "The design process for wind effects around simple buildings"), Professor Rebecca Barthelmie, Indiana University, US (Lecture entitled: "Meteorological controls on wind turbine wakes"), Professor Gregory Kopp, the University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario (Lecture entitled: "Large-scale research facilities") and Professor Yaojun Ge, Tongji University, China (Lecture entitled: "Recent aerodynamic concerns of cable supported bridges with super long

span: flutter instability, torsional divergence and wind-rain induced vibration"). We have aimed at bringing plenary discussions into the program by initiating panel discussions following the keynote presentations. These panel discussions were very successful, and we hope that this initiative will be continued at future conferences. We thank all keynote speakers, presenters, panel members and attendants for their contributions and lively discussions.

Next to the keynote lectures and regular technical sessions, many colleagues have responded positively to the possibility to organize a Special Technical Session. In total, 12 successful Special Technical Sessions were held at the conference, with many highly interesting presentations. They were also highlights at this conference and were all very well attended. We thank the Organizers of these Special Technical Sessions for their care and support in building these strong Sessions.

In total, we received a record number of over 600 abstracts from more than 40 countries worldwide. After a double peer-review round, we programmed around 500 full oral presentations and 50 poster presentations. Due to the large amount of high-quality submissions, we needed to schedule 5 parallel sessions along 4 main conference tracks.

This Special Issue contains papers part of which was presented during the conference. It covers the wide range of topics presented at the conference. The selection of these papers was done in three steps: first, during the conference, the session chairs were asked to rate the papers and presentations. Secondly, based on the ratings, authors were invited to submit an extended version of the conference paper. Then thirdly, the papers underwent the regular reviewing process of this Journal. Due to the strict time limit, only papers that did not need major revisions (and re-reviews) could be considered for the Special Issue. The authors were asked to apply the minor revisions and to submit their revised paper in the early months of 2012.

Many interesting papers were presented at the conference but are not included in this Special Issue. In addition, some of the papers that were positively evaluated by the reviewers could unfortunately not be included in the Special Issue due to time constraints. The Editor of the Journal, Ted Stathopoulos, has kindly allowed the option that the authors of these papers could continue the submission process under his editorship, so they can possibly be included in a future regular issue of the Journal. Throughout the entire Special Issue procedure, only minor delays occurred. It has been a great pleasure for us to work with these dedicated authors and reviewers and to build this Special Issue with their strong support. Without their help and commitment, this Special Issue would not have been possible.



The completion of this Special Issue marks the end of our work for ICWE13. It has been a privilege and a pleasure for us to cooperate with the Wind Engineering Community towards the success of ICWE13 and this Special Issue. We are very grateful for the confidence and strong support of the Executive Board of the IAWE. We thank the Advisory Committee and the many Scientific Committee members for their valuable and timely advice and contributions.

Our gratitude also goes to all authors and reviewers for their care in preparing and reviewing both abstracts and papers and for adhering to the—sometimes very stringent—deadlines.

ICWE13 would not have been possible without the efforts of our colleagues of the organizing committee of the conference: Eddy Willemsen, Emeritus Professor Jacob Wisse, Professor Gerard van Bussel, Carine van Bentum, Okke Bronkhorst, Pierre Gousseau, Dr. Wim Bierbooms, Huib Plomp and Anna Plakas. We are very grateful for their excellent work and indispensable support. We also thank our professional conference organizer CAOS for the splendid organizational effort. We are very grateful for the excellent support by Jamuna Srinivasan, Journal Manager at Elsevier, to ensure a fast and accurate publication process. Finally, last but certainly not the least, we want to express our

gratitude to Elsevier and to the main Editor of the Journal of Wind Engineering and Industrial Aerodynamics, Professor Ted Stathopoulos, for giving us the opportunity to build this Special Issue, and for his dedication, care, confidence and support.

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