MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF IIFC

Recent years have seen rapidly growing interest in the application of fibre-reinforced polymer (FRP) composites in construction around the world, in terms of both research activities and practical implementations. Indeed, many have hailed FRP composites as a new generation of construction materials following steel and concrete. Against this background, the International Institute for FRP in Construction (IIFC) was formed in 2003 to promote and coordinate worldwide activities in this area. One of the important activities of IIFC is the organization of a biennial official conference series, as well as biennial regional conferences.

As President of IIFC, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to Dr. Scott Smith, Chair of the Organizing Committee of APFIS 2007, and his team for devoting so much time and energy to make this conference a great success. I would also like to thank all others who contributed to this success in different ways, including members of the Organizing Committee, the International Scientific Committee and many others. The strong support for APFIS 2007 shown by the international civil engineering FRP research community is a testimony to the importance and significance of this conference.

There is no doubt that a major impact of IIFC has been the sponsorship of international symposia and conferences. This will continue with this APFIS conference and the 4th CICE conference scheduled for 2008 in Switzerland. Registration fees at such conferences imply that IIFC dues are waived for the year in question. Other advantages of IIFC membership are complimentary copies of conference proceedings. We are striving to enhance the benefits of IIFC membership, and are open to all suggestions and ideas for doing so. I would like to conclude with a request to all members of the Institute: please inform your colleagues of the activities of IIFC and encourage them to join our vibrant organization.

Professor Kenneth W. Neale
President IIFC
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