MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMEN OF THE IIFC WORKING GROUP ON THE BOND BEHAVIOUR OF FRP IN STRUCTURES

A Working Group on Bond between FRP and Concrete (the Bond WG) of the International Institute for FRP in Construction (IIFC) was established in November 2004 to promote research collaboration and exchange on FRP-to-concrete bond behaviour. As part of its activities, the Bond WG organised the International Symposium on Bond Behaviour of FRP in Structures (BBFS 2005), which was successfully held on 7-9 December 2005 in Hong Kong, China. The Symposium provided a much needed forum for international exchanges and a state-of-the-art survey of existing research in the area. At BBFS 2005, the scope of the Bond WG was expanded to include the bond behaviour of FRP in all types of structural applications and its name was also revised to reflect this expanded scope.

Following the success of BBFS 2005, it was initially planned that another symposium of the same scope would be held in 2007. With the establishment of the APFIS series of conferences, we then decided to organise a set of special sessions on bond behaviour as part of the inaugural APFIS conference instead of a dedicated symposium. We believe that this alternative approach has its own merit and hope that it will be equally effective in furthering research on this important theme.

Included within this section are 35 papers to be presented in the bond special sessions. The papers cover a wide range of bond behaviour issues between (external, near surface mounted and internal) FRP and other structural materials such as concrete, masonry, metal and timber. These papers illustrate clearly that research in this area is still very active and many issues remain to be clarified.

We would like to thank the authors for their careful preparation of the manuscripts and to the reviewers for their prompt and high-quality reviews. We would also like to thank Dr Scott Smith for facilitating the development of these special sessions as part of the APFIS 2007 conference.

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