PREFACE

As the conference chair of Asia-Pacific Conference on FRP in Structures (APFIS) 2009, it is a great honor to host the second APFIS conference here in Seoul, Korea. It is also a personal privilege for me to give the welcome address on this special occasion.

The International Institute for FRP in Construction (IIFC) has been holding the international conference on FRP Composites in Civil Engineering (CICE) every even numbered year since 2001. The First CICE conference was held at Hong Kong in 2001, then at Adelaide in 2004, at Miami in 2006, and at Zurich in 2008. The APFIS conference, which is the second conference organized by IIFC, was first held at Hong Kong in 2007, and it comes to the second conference this year. Two years ago in Patras, Greece, I had received a proposal from Prof. Bank to hold the second APFIS conference in Korea, and I accepted the offer, and this has been the start of the preparation of APFIS. Looking back, the two years preparation time has made me immensely busy. The proposal for organizing the APFIS2009 was sent to IIFC, and was approved by the IIFC, and based upon the proposal, 30 members of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) were formed. In addition, 50 members of the International Scientific Committee (ISC) were organized, centering on the IIFC ExCom members. With the help of the LOC and ISC members, each submitted abstract was reviewed by three reviewers, and was selected, and the results were informed to the authors. Then LOC called for full papers of the selected abstracts, and papers for presentation were selected according to the review results of three reviewers. During the time of the CICE conference at Zurich in 2008, a progress report was written and reported at the ExCom meeting of IIFC. You may find the detailed reports at the APFIS2009 website created in 2008.

In this year’s conference, we have invited six keynote lecturers, Prof. Oehler from Australia, Prof. Bank from the United States, Prof. Benmokrane from Canada, Prof. Ueda from Japan, Prof. Lee from Korea, and Prof. Smith from Hong Kong. This is the result from the consideration of regional distinction of the lecturers. LOC have tried to invite one keynote lecturer from Europe, but regretfully failed due to the miscommunication with LOC. All the keynote lectures of this year’s conference will be scheduled during the Plenary Sessions such as Opening Ceremony, Lunch, Banquet and Closing Ceremony. The reason for this is to emphasize the importance of each keynote lecture.

From the submitted papers of this conference, Conference Award will be presented to one theoretical paper and one practical paper. I would like to extend a sincere appreciation to Prof. El-Hacha of Canada, for the selection of the awarded papers.

On contrary to our first expectation, the number of papers presented at this year’s conference adds up to about 90 papers. To solve the financial problem, LOC have accepted sponsorship from construction companies such as Hyundai E&C Corp., Samsung Construction Corp., GS E&C Corp., and POSCO E&C Corp. As the conference chair, I would like to convey my deepest gratitude to these companies for their kind support.

I expect great interest in the optional tours scheduled during the conference, and also look forward to the active participation in the technical tour, prepared as post conference tour. Last of all, I hope all participants to have a fruitful outcome and success from this three day conference, and wish a pleasant stay in Seoul, Korea.

December 9, 2009

Jongsung Sim
Conference Chair
APFIS 2009