

## TECHNICAL SMORGASBORD



**This year's NZ Concrete Industry Conference at the Claudelands Event Centre in Hamilton (Thursday 11 – Saturday 13 October) has attracted an extraordinarily diverse range of proposed presentations – reflected in the abstracts received.**

The planning team is busy reviewing the abstracts and, broadly, the topics fall across research, concrete construction projects and associated technologies, design trends, construction, materials, methodologies and standards updates.

Complementing the programme are our two keynote speakers, confirmed as Professors Campbell Middleton (Cambridge University) and Michael Thomas (University of New Brunswick). They bring a wealth of experience in infrastructure engineering and concrete durability.

An expected 350 delegates will be attending, in addition to a host of exhibitors that have already reserved their stands.

This year's conference also marks a significant milestone – it's being held under the unified banner of Concrete New Zealand the first time.

Proceedings commence on Thursday afternoon and conclude at midday Saturday, with the formal conference dinner and Awards being held on the Friday night. As always, the event provides extensive networking opportunities for delegates, and Hamilton – and the immediate surrounding area – is home to plenty of facilities for social outings.

The conference incorporates Concrete NZ, Concrete NZ – Masonry, Concrete NZ – Learned Society, Concrete NZ – Readymix and Concrete NZ – Precast. This combination is regarded as the optimum format for presenting the most interesting and varied programme for all sectors of the industry.

### Trade exhibits

A major influencer in the decision to return to the Claudelands venue this year is its suitability for trade exhibits. It is an excellent facility for displaying heavy equipment and conducting live demonstrations. These are always hugely popular.

Interestingly, the number of exhibitors continues to grow every year, and the event is always useful for establishing contacts and new leads. Note that exhibitor space is filling up fast. The four patron spots have been sold, though there are still a few sponsor spots available.

**To secure sponsor/exhibitor space, please contact the Conference Secretary on (09) 536 5410 or email: [learnedsociety@concretenz.org.nz](mailto:learnedsociety@concretenz.org.nz)**

## SEMINAR DIVERSITY



**A broad range of seminars is being prepared for the remainder of 2018 and early 2019. These follow the particularly successful Displacement-based Seismic Design Assessment seminars held in March and attended by more than 250 people. An excellent turn-out.**

The Council extends warm thanks and appreciation to the presenters – Tim Sullivan (University of Canterbury) and Didier Pettinga (Holmes Consulting).

Firm dates/venues for the upcoming seminars will be communicated as soon as they are finalised, but the proposed schedule is as follows:

### PT Design & Construction

(30 May - 1 June 2018)

This two-day seminar – at Auckland's Ellerslie Function Centre – provides the know-how and tools for efficient, economical design of post-tensioned structures. It covers the application of post-tensioning and flat slab construction in high seismic risk regions, with specific reference to practice in California.

Three international presenters have been confirmed:

**Bijan Aalami** – Emeritus Professor of San Francisco State University; Legend, Fellow and Life Member of the Post-Tensioning Institute

**Florian Aalami** – an expert in AEC software development and the design and construction of post-tensioned concrete structures

**Juan Maier** – Head of Business Development at Switzerland's BBR VT International – the Technical Headquarters and Business Development Centre of the BBR Network.

### FRP Seminar

(First week of July 2018)

Arranged in partnership with *fib*, this seminar features a number of European presenters – all international experts in the design and application of advanced composite materials such as fibre-reinforced polymer (FRP) and textile-reinforced mortar.

The course trains participants to consider, design and apply advanced composite materials in a systematic way and, in particular, is geared to using FRP for strengthening and/or seismic retrofitting of existing structures.

The presenters are:



**Stijn Matthys** – professor of renovation of civil structures at Ghent University. Expertise relates to structural renovation of civil structures, FRP reinforcement, structural behaviour of concrete structures, damage diagnostics and monitoring, and technologies for durable building materials and techniques.



**György Balázs** – professor of structural engineering at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics. Main research fields include FRC, FRP, UHPC, bond, cracking, fatigue, fire resistance, durability, service life and extension of service life.



**Thanasis Triantafillou** – professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Patras, Greece. Extensive research in the field of advanced structural materials, with a focus in the use of polymer or cement-based composites as strengthening and seismic retrofitting materials for concrete, masonry and timber structures.



**Maurizio Guadagnini** – senior lecturer in the Department of Civil and Structural Engineering at the UK's University of Sheffield. Has extensive experience in the experimental investigation and use of advanced composites as reinforcing materials for concrete structures.

## Red Book Shear Walls Series

(Tentative date – September/October 2108)

A very topical seminar now that NZS 3101 is complete and operating. Attendees will receive a copy of the chapter for the Red book. It will be presented by Alistair Russell (Holmes Consulting) and Nic Brooke (Compusoft), both of whom were involved in the Redbook wall chapter development.



## TRAVEL BURSARY WINNER



**Tongyue Zhang** – a PhD Candidate at the University of Auckland's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering – is the winner of the Society's 2018 Travel Bursary. He will use the money to travel to Los Angeles in June where he will present a paper at the National Conference on Earthquake Engineering.

This milestone event is hosted every four years by the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute. The theme of this year's Conference is the 'integration of science, engineering, and policy'.

It brings together more than 1,000 professionals from nearly 50 countries with a broad range of disciplines, including structural engineering, architecture, seismology, geology, geophysics, geotechnical engineering, business, public policy, social sciences and regional planning.

Tongyue's paper covers his research into the damage sustained by reinforced concrete walls in older (pre-1970s) multi-storey buildings during the 2010/2011 Canterbury Earthquake series.

## AMENDMENT APPROVED

**The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment has approved amendments to eight engineering equations in the Concrete Buildings section of the *Seismic Assessments of Existing Buildings – Technical Guidelines for Engineering Assessments*.**

These amended equations became effective on March 26th. More information can be found at [www.eq-assess.org.nz](http://www.eq-assess.org.nz).

The corrections only relate to seismic assessments of existing buildings constructed with reinforced concrete that use section C5 (Concrete Buildings) of the Engineering Assessment Guidelines.

A further revision of C5 will be consulted on in the second half of this year. It will incorporate findings from research and investigations following the November 2016 Kaikoura earthquake, and will present a clearer process for engineers to follow when tackling a seismic assessment.



## WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP FUND

**Women working in the construction sector have a final opportunity to register their interest in a scholarship worth up to \$8,000 to support participation in an accredited leadership development program.**

The scholarship provides women with funding of between \$3,000 and \$8,000 to undertake a range of leadership development programs commencing later this year.

The funding window closes on **27 April** and it's uncertain when these grants will be available again. For more information and initial expressions of interest visit:

[www.womenandleadership.co.nz/scholarships](http://www.womenandleadership.co.nz/scholarships)