
Foreword

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Biographical notes: Bryan J. Magee is a Lecturer in Construction Materials at Ulster University, Northern Ireland, UK. His experience as an educationalist and researcher in the field of civil engineering spans over 20 years, with previous high-ranking academic and industry posts held across three continents. His principal research interest is the behaviour, performance and advancement of civil/structural materials. Having published over 75 refereed technical publications, he is a co-founding member of the International Conference on the Durability of Concrete Structures series and active in relevant professional bodies including the Institute of Concrete Technology, Concrete Society, Quarry Products Association and Higher Education Academy.

This special journal issue reflects international collaborative research in the field of concrete durability originally presented at the *Third International Conference on the Durability of Concrete Structures* held in Belfast, 17–19 September 2012; an event initiated as part of a UK-China Science Bridge project focussing on sustainable solutions for the built environment.

Funded in 2009 by Research Councils UK, the aim of the UK-China Science Bridge project was to accelerate deployment of research knowledge, strengthen current research links and contribute to wealth generation in the UK and China through dedicated technology transfer activities. Involving a diverse range of academic and industry partners in the UK, Ireland and China, the project involved an array of collaborative activities including: fundamental research and proof-of-concept studies; formation of joint laboratories and centres of excellence; joint publications; academic and students exchanges; education and training events; and technical seminars and conferences.

The UK and China project leaders for the Science Bridge project included Professor Muhammed Basheer (University of Leeds); Dr. Bai Yun (University College London); Dr. Bryan Magee (Built Environment Research Institute, Ulster University); and Professors Wei-Liang Jin and Yuxi Zhao (Zhejiang University, Hangzhou).

The International Conference on the Durability of Concrete Structures (ICDCS) series brings together leading experts in the field from around the world. The aim is to share recent achievements, present latest development and to discuss current problems so that the future challenges relating to the durability of concrete structures can be addressed.

Successful events in the ICDCS series have been held in Hangzhou, China (2008), Sapporo, Japan (2010), Belfast, UK (2012) and West Lafayette, USA (2014). The next ICDCS Conference will be held in Shenzhen, China from 30 June–1 July 2016.