

Conference report

ICPIC '04—A successful event launching new challenges

The 11th International Congress on Polymers in Concrete (ICPIC) was held in June 2004 in Berlin, Germany. It was hosted by the Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing (BAM), which has been involved in ICPIC activities since the early beginning in the Seventies and contributed to by own research in this field. About 140 attendants from 22 countries all over the world could be welcomed. The Proceedings [1] handed out at the conference comprehend 75 contributions on more than 600 pages. Nearly all of them could be presented and discussed in the scientific sessions of the congress under the following topics: Fundamentals, New Developments, Properties and Applications, Testing and Performance, Strengthening and Repair, Durability, Thin Overlays, Special Modifications, and Special Topics. Concerning the material, about 30 papers dealt with polymer-modified cement concrete (PCC) and about 25 with polymer concrete (PC). The third large group of materials were polymer fibres applied in concrete and fibre-reinforced polymer sheets for strengthening concrete. New polymer additives, the novel development in the superplasticizer area, and recycling completed the programme. The interest in these topics proved that this extension of topics makes ICPIC more attractive for the public as well as the scientific community.

Considering the content of the papers, a high scientific level was evident, without neglecting practical as-

pects too far. Numerous contributions dealt with the microstructure and modelling. The effects of chemical, physical and biochemical impact were investigated. Properties and applications of novel polymers in concrete were demonstrated, up to the development of “intelligent polymer concrete systems”. Besides the well-known researchers in the ICPIC area, the participation of younger scientists and industry representatives was evident forming the majority of speakers and attendants. So ICPIC '04 delivered the necessary “change of generations” which also took place in the ICPIC Board. The intention of the Berlin congress to launch a new series of ICPIC congresses after the 10 conferences between 1975 and 2001 could be fulfilled, and we expect a challenging 12th ICPIC in 2007 in Korea.

Reference

- [1] ICPIC '04—Proceedings. Maultzsch M, editor. Berlin: BAM; 2004. xi + 635 pp. ISBN 3-00-013706-8.

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