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NEWS ITEMS

Calendar of Events

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| 4th CANMET/ACI International Conference on Durability of Concrete , Sydney Hilton Hotel, Sydney, Australia. Information: V.M. Malhotra, CANMET, 405 Rochester St., Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0G1. Fax: (613) 992-9389. | August 17-22, 1997 |
| 3rd CANMET/ACI International Symposium on Advances in Concrete Technology , Sheraton Auckland Hotel, Auckland, New Zealand. Information: V.M. Malhotra, CANMET/EMR, 405 Rochester St., Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0G1. Fax: (613) 992-9389. | August 24-27, 1997 |
| 22nd Conference on Our World in Concrete and Structures , Hotel New Otani, Singapore. Information: Conference Secretariat, CI-Premier Pte Ltd, 150 Orchard Road #07-14, Orchard Plaza, Singapore 238841, Republic of Singapore. | August 25-27, 1997 |
| Speciality Conference on Fibre Reinforced Concrete , Hotel New Otani, Singapore. Information: Conference Secretariat, CI-Premier Pte Ltd, 150 Orchard Road #07-14, Orchard Plaza, Singapore 238841, Republic of Singapore. | August 28-29, 1997 |
| 13th International Conference on Building Materials , Weimar, Germany. Information: Dr.-Ing. H.-B. Fischer, Secretary of the Organizing Committee, HAB Weimar Universität, Orgbüro der ibaustil, D-99421 Weimar, Germany. | September 24-26, 1997 |
| 5th CANMET/ACI International Conference on Superplasticizers and Other Chemical Admixtures in Concrete , Rome, Italy. Information: V.M. Malhotra, CANMET, 405 Rochester St., Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0G1. Fax: (613) 992-9389. | October 8-10, 1997 |
| 5th International Symposium on Brittle Matrix Composites (BMC 5) , Staszic Place, Warsaw, Poland. Information: Prof. A.M. Brandt, IFTR, Swietokrzyska 21, 00-049 Warsaw, Poland. Fax: (4822) 269815; E-mail: abrandt@ippt.gov.pl | October 13-15, 1997 |

- R-MRS/E-MRS Conference on Radioactive Waste, Storage, Transportation, Recycling: Environment and Human Impact**, St. Petersburg, Russia. Information: Conference Chair, Shpalernaja Str. 49, 193015 St. Petersburg, Russia. Tel: 7-812-274-3796; Fax: 7-812-274-1707; e-mail: kkv@prometey2.spb.su. **October 14-18, 1997**
- ACI Fall Convention**, Atlanta Hilton and Towers, Atlanta, Georgia. Information: ACI, P.O. Box 19150, Detroit, MI 48219-0150 USA. **November 9-14, 1997**
- ACI 1997 International Conference on High-Performance Concrete: Design and Materials and Recent Advances in Concrete Technology**, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Information: American Concrete Institute, P.O. Box 19150, Detroit, MI 49219-0150 USA. Fax: (313) 538-0655. **December 2-5, 1997**
- MRS Fall Meeting**, Boston, Massachusetts. Information: Materials Research Society, 9800 McKnight St., Pittsburgh, PA 15237-6006 USA. Tel: (412) 367-3003; Fax: (412) 367-4373; World Wide Web <http://www.mrs.org/>. **November 30-December 4, 1997**
- Symposium HH: Advances in Materials for Cementitious Composites**, MRS Fall Meeting, Boston, MA. Information: Michael R. Silsbee, Materials Research Laboratory, University Park, PA 16802 or Judy LaRosa Thompson, PQ Corporation, 280 Cedar Grove Road, Conshohocken, PA 19428-2240. **November 30-December 4, 1997**
- RILEM International Conference on The Interfacial Zone in Cementitious Composites**, Haifa, Israel. Information: Prof. A. Bentur or Dr. A. Katz, National Building Research Institute, Technion, Haifa 32000 Israel. E-mail: akatz@tx.technion.ac.il. **March 8-12, 1998**
- ACI Spring Meeting**, Hyatt Regency, Houston, TX. Information: ACI, P.O. Box 19150, Detroit, MI 48219-0150 USA. **March 22-27, 1998**
- American Ceramic Society 100th Annual Meeting**, Cincinnati, OH. Information: American Ceramic Society, P.O. Box 6136, Westerville, OH 43086-6136 USA. **May 3-6, 1998**
- Sixth CANMET/ACI International Conference on Fly Ash, Silica Fume, Slag and Natural Pozzolans in Concrete**, Royal Orchid Sheraton, Bangkok, Thailand. Information: V.M. Malhotra, CANMET, 405 Rochester Street, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0G1. Fax: (613) 992-9389. **May 31-June 5, 1998**

CANMET/ACI/JCI 4th International Conference on Recent Advances in Concrete Technology, Hotel Clement, Tokushima, Japan. Information: V.M. Malhotra, CANMET, 405 Rochester St., Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0G1. Fax: (613) 992-9389. **June 7-11, 1998**

2nd International Conference on Concrete under Severe Conditions, Environment and Loading, CONSEC '98, Tromsø, Norway. Information: Odd E. Gjor, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Faculty of Civil and Environmental Engineering, N-7934 Trondheim, Norway. Fax: (+47) 73 59 45 51; E-mail: bml@bygg.ntu.no. **June 21-24, 1998**

4th Beijing International Symposium on Cement and Concrete, Beijing, China. Information: Ms. Su Muzhen, Vice President, China Building Materials Academy, Guanzhuang, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100024, P.R. China. **October 27-30, 1998**

6th NCB International Seminar on Cement and Building Materials, New Delhi, India. Information: S.C. Rastogi, National Council for Cement and Building Materials, 34 Km Stone, Delhi-Mathura Road (NH-2), Ballabgarh, 121 004 (Haryana), India. Tel: (91) 129-242051; Fax: (91) 129-242100. **November 24-27, 1998**

Call for Papers

The Sidney Diamond Symposium on The Materials Science and Engineering of Concrete and Cementitious-Based Composites will be held in the Ala Moana Hotel, Honolulu, Hawaii, August 30-September 3, 1998. The symposium is a tribute to Professor Sidney Diamond for his 35 years of contributions to the research and education in civil engineering materials.

200-word abstracts are invited on topics related to the general aspects of materials science and engineering of concrete and cement-based composites, with particular emphasis on microstructure, microporosity, durability, and physical, chemical, mechanical and fracture mechanics behaviors. Also invited are abstracts related to the characterization and effects of mineral and chemical admixtures and particulate and fibrous inclusions on these properties.

Deadline for receipt of abstracts is October 15, 1997. Authors of accepted abstracts will be expected to submit their papers by February 1, 1998. The papers will be reviewed according to normal standards and practice of refereed journals. Abstracts should be mailed to Prof. Menashi D. Cohen, Attn: Sidney Diamond Symposium, School of Civil Engineering, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, 47907 USA. Abstracts can also be faxed to (765) 497-1364 or e-mailed to: mcohen@ce.ecn.purdue.edu.

RILEM, the International Union of Testing and Research Laboratories for Materials and Structures, is pleased to announce the 2nd International Conference on "Rehabilitation of Structures" will be held in Melbourne, Australia, September 21-23, 1998. This conference follows the 1st RILEM International Conference "Rehabilitation of Concrete Structures"

which was held in Melbourne in 1992. The scope of this conference has been broadened to include the rehabilitation of structures composed of all building materials including concrete, timber, and steel.

Methods and materials for repair and protection are vast and diversified and, with continued advances in technology, engineers are finding increasing challenges in determining the appropriate rehabilitation strategies. The purpose of the conference is to bring many practitioners and researchers from many countries together to discuss the latest developments in the rehabilitation of structures.

The broad themes of the conference will be Diagnosis and Monitoring; Assessment of Repair Systems; Advanced Repair Materials; Structural Aspects; Electrochemical Aspects; Specifications and Standards; Case Studies; and Research and Development.

One page abstracts of proposed papers are due September 1, 1997. Approval of Abstract, November 1997; Receipt of Draft Manuscript, March 1, 1997; Return of Reviewed Manuscript, April 1, 1998; and Receipt of Final Manuscript, May 1, 1998. Send abstract and a short curriculum vitae of the author to the conference secretary; Ms. Liz Gray, Conference Secretary "Rehabilitation of Structures," CSIRO, Division of Building, Construction, and Engineering, PO Box 56, Highett, Victoria 3190 Australia. Tel: 61-3-9252 6000; Fax: 61-3-9252 6400; E-mail: Lix.Gray@dbce.csiro.au.

New Book

Self-Desiccation and Its Importance in Concrete Technology, B. Persson and G. Fagerlund, editors. Proceedings of an International Research Seminar in Lund, Sweden, June 10, 1997. Order Report TVBM-3075 from: Britt Andersson, Fax: 46-46-222 44 27.

Self-desiccation is a well-known phenomenon, and increases with decreasing water/cement ratio. This publication, containing 20 papers, contributes much to the understanding of this process. The effects positive and negative of self-desiccation are negligible in traditional concrete because of the small effect of self-desiccation on the internal RH (relative humidity) of such concrete. Therefore, self-desiccation is hardly observed or considered in traditional concrete technology. However, the growing interest in high performance concrete has changed the situation. A reduction in the water/cement ratio to levels far below 0.40 and the use of silica fume cause such big changes in the internal pore structure that self-desiccation becomes important. The RH-level can be very much reduced, causing rapid drying and improving durability. But it also has negative effects such as shrinkage and cracking. Therefore, self-desiccation cannot be neglected in high performance concrete. This seminar collected and discussed information from ongoing research within this important field.