Editorial

Wei F. Lee PhD

Chair and Honorary Editor, Editorial Advisory Panel; Associate General Manager, Ground Master Construction/MICE Engineering Consultants, Taipei, Taiwan

Happy New Year!

It is my greatest honor to follow in Professor Costas Georgopoulos' steps to chair the editorial panel of *Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers – Forensic Engineering*. *Forensic Engineering* is one of the leading journals of forensic engineering in civil engineering society worldwide, and is surely the most popular. Engineering practice is always the core strength of *Forensic Engineering*. Papers detailing practical experience, comments on regulations or specifications and, mostly, case studies have been published. We would like to keep this superb tradition and to extend it further to cover as many civil engineering topics as possible, including infrastructure maintenance, climate change, green energy and renovations.

In 2017, *Forensic Engineering* will start a call for new editorial panel members. The editorial panel's expectations of new members include

- providing advice and suggestions to the panel chair
- being able to make paper contributions to *Forensic Engineering* by writing or recruiting papers
- being able proactively to promote *Forensic Engineering* to the engineering community
- most importantly, having good connections or knowledge in specific fields of forensic engineering to chair themed issues, proceed reviewer recommendations, assess paper quality and credibility, as well as review papers.

We try to formulate a panel member matrix of technical aspects versus regions to enhance the publishing programme further. We would like to invite forensic engineering experts who specialise in: infrastructure maintenance; inspection and retrofit of transportation facilities; underground construction; building renovation; and structure damage caused by climate change or major disasters such as earthquakes and heavy rainfall. Professionals from different regions including Europe, America, East Asia, South-east Asia, South Asia, the Middle East and Africa are welcome to join the new panel. We hope that by gradually developing this panel matrix *Forensic Engineering* will further expand its bandwidth to cover more of civil engineers' interests and possible prevalent forensic engineering topics in the world. Efforts on issues dedicated to designated forensic engineering themes will be continued in this and future volumes. In addition to the themed issues, we will also try to edit the general issues with a major topic that covers up-to-date events, or new technologies of forensic engineering. Among the proposed technical aspects for *Forensic Engineering*,

I would personally like to emphasise infrastructure inspection, maintenance and retrofit. New inspection and retrofit technology is a promising field of interest for the years to come. Developments and applications in these state-of-the-art technologies are sure to modernise forensic investigation and to incorporate forensic engineering with many other engineering and science domains.

Although the present paper index and impact factor are never my top priority for judging the value of technical papers or journals, in an effort to promote *Forensic Engineering* the editorial panel would like the journal to follow a 2-year path to submission for evaluation to be indexed by Web of Science, as well as to strengthen up the journal's impact factor. By recruiting new editorial panel members and expanding the technical aspects, we expect that citations of published papers will increase. Moreover, we hope that prominent research groups in the proposed areas would be attracted to make continuous contributions to *Forensic Engineering*. We certainly encourage and welcome engineers and researchers to publish their valuable practical experiences and research progress here in *Forensic Engineering*.

In this issue of *Forensic Engineering*, Kermode (2017) reports on the importance and structure of the Institution of Civil Engineers' climate change task force. Climate change would certainly be the biggest challenge to civil engineers. Saunders (2017) presents another instructive briefing of the importance of being a better expert witness, with careful reminders of how to be a qualified expert witness. We then have four brilliant papers to start the 'Urban renovation' theme. Beasley (2017) addresses the critical issues of facade failures in the urban environment. This topic has been one of the most critical forensic engineering challenges in most metropolitan areas in the world. Goh (2017) presents another critical urban renovation subject: influences of new underground constructions on existing buildings and structures. Interfaces and interactions are so complicated and critical when cities start to grow and be renovated. Eschenasy (2017) also addresses how important this issue is by analysing statistics of new building constructions in New York City. No matter whether the structures are new or old, condition assessment of construction materials is always the most important task in forensic investigation or disputes. Ingham and Leek (2017) have provided their valuable engineering experience in their paper.

We hope that *Forensic Engineering* will keep its old yet outstanding spirit, and add new flavors including new members and technical elements in 2017. 2017 will be a good year; I wish a prosperous year to *Forensic Engineering* and to everyone!

REFERENCES

- Beasley KJ (2017) Building facade failures in the urban environment. *Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers – Forensic Engineering* **170(1)**: 8–13, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1680/jfoen.16.00018>.
- Eschenasy D (2017) Erecting new buildings in New York City's old neighbourhoods. *Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers – Forensic Engineering* **170(1)**: 24–32, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1680/jfoen.16.00020>.
- Goh KH (2017) Building condition and impact assessment of underground construction. *Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers – Forensic Engineering* **170(1)**: 14–23, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1680/jfoen.16.00027>.
- Ingham J and Leek D (2017) Forensic engineering of construction materials: lessons learnt from disputes. *Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers – Forensic Engineering* **170(1)**: 33–44, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1680/jfoen.16.00029>.
- Kermode T (2017) ICE recognises the role of civil engineers in adapting to climate change. *Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers – Forensic Engineering* **170(1)**: 3–5, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1680/jfoen.16.00036>.
- Saunders S (2017) How civil engineers can be better expert witnesses. *Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers – Forensic Engineering* **170(1)**: 6–7, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1680/jfoen.16.00021>.