Book review

Coasts, Marine Structures and Breakwaters – Adapting to Change

William Allsop (ed.). Thomas Telford, London, UK, 2010, ISBN 978-0-7277-4130-1 (vol. 1) and 978-0-7277-4131-8 (vol. 2), £265.00, 777 pp. (vol. 1) and 728 pp. (vol. 2)

The proceedings of the 9th International Conference on Coasts, Marine Structures and Breakwaters organised by the Institution of Civil Engineers and held in Edinburgh on 16 to 18 September 2009 have been compiled into this two-volume set by Professor William Allsop.

This series of conferences, first held in 1982, has provided a valuable forum for international experts to record and disseminate advances in research, design approaches, numerical and physical modelling, model testing and construction methods for sea defence structures, as well as lessons learned from post-construction performance monitoring of such structures. In addition to the usual range of papers on the above subjects, there are also papers devoted to rehabilitating and extending the life of existing breakwaters and innovations in construction. In the latter context, 'state of

the art' placement methods for large armour units are of particular interest.

The 9th Conference explored the wider issues associated with shoreline management. The two volumes also contain a large selection of papers describing modelling methods, beach management, beach nourishment and erosion protection measures. These include papers on responses to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in Louisiana, coastal protection in Uruguay, 'soft' coastal protection in South Africa, and beach nourishment projects in the UK.

The design and performance of near-coast renewable energy devices formed a major subject category on its own at the 9th Conference, with papers presented on the challenges of foundation design for offshore wind farms and seawalls for wave energy conversion.

These two volumes are a valuable reference for academic researchers and practising engineers in maritime and coastal engineering, and the grouping of papers makes it easy to find the reference of interest.

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