

Liège, le 5 novembre 2010

Objet:

Dear friends of the "Structures in Fire" community,

This newsletter is first to inform those of you who could not come to East Lansing in June this year about the outcome of the sixth international conference SiF'10.

This proved to be a great success from different points of view.

Not less than 205 abstracts were received by the scientific committee, out of which only 125 were selected for publication in the conference proceedings. In order to limit the event to three days duration and to allow sufficient time for discussion with a single track, only 54 of them could be given a slot for presentation, with the others presented in a very successful poster session.

The presentations were generally of high quality, with only one out of the 125 selected papers that was not presented.

The attendance was high with 210 delegates in total, coming from all continents and 34 different countries, and the local organising committee did a terrific job to take good care of all of these people.

The proceedings of the conference can be obtained from the publisher, DEStech Publications, Inc, Lancaster PA, ISBN 978-1-60595-027-3.

The editors of the journal "Structural Fire Safety Engineering" are willing to publish a selection of the papers of the proceedings once they have been going through the normal process of peer review that is standard procedure for a journal.

An informal meeting was held at the end of the conference during which the delegates could express their views and suggestions for improvement of the future SiF conferences. The minutes of this meeting are reproduced as an annex to this message.

A web site will be created to gather and present all relevant information about the SiF movement (www.structuresinfire.com).

The most important aspect is the quality of the review process which becomes critical when the acceptance rate for presentation is in the order of 1 out of 4 proposals. Some indications will have to be given to the authors for making their submitted abstracts in a sufficiently detailed manner in order to allow the reviewers to have a clear view of the material that will be presented in the paper. Suggestions for a 2 pages summary have been made.

The steering committee has decided that the next SiF conference in 2012 will be organized by ETH Zürich in Switzerland. Mario Fontana has since decided that the conference will take place from June 6 to 8. A web page dedicated to this conference will be set up by Mario and his team

Proposals for hosting SiF'2014 should be sent not later than one month before the start of SiF'2012. The objective is to announce the location of SiF'2014 at SiF'2012. Two informal expressions of interests have already been received, one from China and one from Australia, but they have not yet formally materialized. As decided in Singapore, SiF 2014 will be held in Asia (in the wide sense). A document will be put on the SiF web site in the near future with the requirements from the steering committee that the local organizing committee has to fulfill. This is simply to ensure that the spirit and style of the first sixth SiF workshops and conferences will be maintained in the future.

We look forward to meet you in Zürich.

For the steering committee

Jean-Marc Franssen

ANNEX: minutes of the closing meeting

Reviewing:

- Instructions to authors must make it clear that a high quality is required and less than half the abstracts will be accepted for oral presentation.
- No strong objections to two page abstracts.
- Anonymous reviewing supported.

Hosting of future conferences

- Clear guidelines requested

Journal of Structural Fire Engineering

- All participants are invited to submit their SiF paper or any other papers.
- Suggestion that the journal become the official journal of the SiF movement.

Practitioner attendees

- Suggested that there should be a “Case Study” session, mainly for Practitioner attendees.
- A one day seminar could be held before or after the conference.

Website

- Volunteers needed to get the website running. J-M F has bought the name.

Awards

- Suggested that there be some “best paper” awards, presented at closing ceremony. This could be done with judges in same way as the poster competition.

Committee

- Some suggestions for wider representation on the committee.

Conference organisation

- Wide support for the organisation used at Lansing.
- Support for single stream, maybe shorter presentations and longer discussions.
- Presenters should be given guidance about readability of PP slides.