

Editorial

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *Bridge Structures: Assessment, Design and Construction*. *Bridge Structures* is an international peer-reviewed journal which provides a forum for publishing high-caliber papers of immediate value to practicing bridge engineers. These include papers with innovative techniques in analysis, assessment, design and construction, which bring new perspectives to the field of bridge engineering and papers on issues of fabrication, maintenance, management, repair, and rehabilitation of bridges.

Bridge Structures covers a broad range of practical and technical issues of interest to bridge engineers. Transforming theoretical knowledge into guidelines and specifications that are compliant with the technical constraints of bridge engineering design is indicative of a high level of sophistication that requires the delicate integration of research results with the practices of our profession. *Bridge Structures*, a communication medium for researchers and practitioners, provides bridge engineers with state-of-the-art solutions to the emerging challenges and problems that confront bridge engineering practices. These issues exceed geographical boundaries and encompass the bridge engineering community worldwide. Therefore, the exchange of knowledge and experience among bridge engineers from different countries is of paramount importance for achieving solutions to our profession's common challenges. Such global perspective has inspired the formation of an Editorial Board that consists of distinguished bridge engineering experts from all over the world. With significant depth and breadth of expertise, the Editorial Board members will contribute to the practices and policies of the journal.

Journals play a vital role in supporting the processes of the integration of research and practice within the bridge engineering profession. Such integration ranges from research-focused journals that encourage transcendence of

particular interest in design and analytical methods to those primarily concerned with bridge engineering projects as the final product. *Bridge Structures* endeavors to provide a broader platform for supporting the integration of bridge engineering research and practice. While striving for scientific rigor, one of the aims of the journal is to publish scholarly but accessible papers and reviews that are of interest and lasting value to practicing bridge engineers. While the primary objective of *Bridge Structures* is to publish an increasing number of high-quality papers with a seamless demarcation between research and practice, an immediate objective of the journal is to ensure that all papers are accessible to an interdisciplinary readership. *Bridge Structures* is a forum where a practicing bridge engineer can learn about state-of-the-art in bridge engineering, and then, participate in subsequent discussions and an exchange of ideas. In this regard, research-oriented papers should clearly articulate the relevant impact on the practical application of bridge engineering practices. The journal will serve as a medium through which bridge owners and policy makers can engage with the latest research in bridge engineering.

On behalf of the Editorial Board and as Editor-in-Chief, I trust that *Bridge Structures* will enhance the practical application of bridge engineering, and that readers will find the contents of significance and benefit. The ability to communicate the essence of our research and practice issues to readers of *Bridge Structures* will lay the foundation to a richer understanding of the problems that face those in our profession. Designers, researchers, fabricators and contractors, we welcome your readership and contributions to the advancement of the bridge engineering profession.

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