

Guest Editor Preface

It is with a great pleasure that I preface this special issue of the Journal of Sustainable Architecture and Civil Engineering, which comprises invited papers submitted to the 5th International Conference on Renewable Energy Sources & Energy Efficiency, organized in May 2016 in Nicosia, Cyprus.

The 5th International Conference on Renewable Energy Sources & Energy Efficiency was organized on the 5th and 6th of May 2016 in Cyprus by the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the 1927 founded union of Cypriot businessmen, with a membership of 8,000 enterprises and 140 Professional Associations. Since 2007, this biannual international conference is organized with great success and constitutes a very important venue of exchange of experiences, transfer of new knowledge in the field of Energy. The Conference aims at bringing together all the key stakeholders interested in renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and conventional fuels: industrial experts, academic researchers, policy makers and regulators. The thematic areas of the conference focus on the main topics of the sustainable built environment, including the fields of renewable energy sources and system integration, energy efficiency and policy, and the education and research in energy and environment. The topics of the International Conference on Renewable Energy Sources & Energy Efficiency are in line with the scopes of the Journal of Sustainable Architecture and Civil Engineering, dealing with interdisciplinary fields of civil engineering, architecture and sustainability research with the aim to foster the integrated research of civil engineering and architecture targeted to promote sustainability.

This special issue includes eight high quality invited studies, which cover a wide range of subjects which concern the sustainable built environment scientific community. Particularly this issue focuses on the field of experimental and computational building physics, with emphases on the thermophysical performance of contemporary and innovative building elements. The invited studies also cover aspects of economic evaluation of energy retrofit projects, as well as social aspects of the energy behavioural change anticipated to enable the implementation of the ambitious European target of nearly zero energy buildings. State of the art approaches in the sustainable built environment including BIM, LCA and fragility analysis methods are also covered in this issue. The included studies concern both contemporary as well as traditional buildings of the southern European environment.

One study "Improving Particle Size Distribution in Cement Paste by Blending with Superfine Cement" included in this special issue was presented in the 5th International Conference Advanced Construction 2016, Kaunas, Lithuania.

Taking this opportunity I would like to thank Professor Lina Seduikyte for her continuous support towards publishing this special issue, Professors Ioannis Michaelides and Agis Papadopoulos, executive and scientific chairmen of the 5th International Conference on Renewable Energy Sources & Energy Efficiency, who enabled with their targeted actions this publication and Ms Angeliki Kylili for her valuable editorial and managerial support.

This issue is anticipated to strengthen the scientific ties between the Cypriot, the Greek and the Lithuanian research community, leading into further scientific collaborations within joint research initiatives.

Dr.-Ing. Paris A. Fokaides

Guest Editor

School of Engineering, Frederick University, Cyprus