Technical Groups in a Nutshell

Working Commission 8: FRP Structures

M. Dolores G. Pulido, Spain, Chair of WC 8 since 2011, Profession: Structural Engineering researcher at the Eduardo Torroja Institute – CSIC and professor at the Technical University of Madrid. Contact: dpulido@ceu.es

(Ane de Boer, The Netherlands, Vice-Chair of WC 8 since 2011, Profession: Senior Advisor at Rijkswaterstaat Centre for Infrastructure. Contact: anedeboer@hetnet.nl)

What is the objective of WC 8? Mission of establishing FRP in the same level like concrete and steel related to (pre) design circumstances.

What is WC 8 currently working on? We are presently working on a recommendation; a database of constructed structures; examples in design, inspection and repair; contributions for IABSE SC conferences and on stimulating papers for FRP-related conferences or for SEI.

What are future plans of WC 8? Shift the FRP products to a higher level and make them acceptable for designers and design-checking authorities. Continuing the process where we are currently working on and publications in SEI.

Are there any recent activities or issues of WC 8 you would like to mention? During 2012 we held two meetings. One in May in Utrecht, The Netherlands, where we discussed about progress in FRP in various countries (FRP structures constructed, ongoing FRP research, Recommendations, Education, FRP design and engineering, publications, etc.). At the end of the meeting we enjoyed the lecture “Design and construction of the lightest hybrid FRP bridge”, a two-span bridge with a length of 140 m, by Frits van den Bogaard, and the visit to this bridge. The day before this meeting, we attended a one-day workshop titled “Revised CUR96 recommendation FRP Composite Structures”, aligned to Eurocodes, jointly organised by WC 8 and CUR Infra CUR96+. The other meeting was held in September in Seoul during the Annual Meetings.

Does WC 8 interrelate with other groups outside IABSE? WC 8 members are very active in several scientific and professional organisations. Chair and Vice-chair are personally members of the following:
- CEN-FRP WG4 Eurocode FRP
- Setup national mirror committees for the Eurocode FRP 2015-2018 process.
- Link to IIIFC (International Institute for FRP in Construction).
- SEMNI (Spanish Society of Numerical Methods in Engineering).
- AFGC (French Association of Civil Engineering).

Do you have any wishes from IABSE? We look forward for the online Community possibilities.

Working Group 8: Forensic Structural Engineering

Robert T. Ratay, Chair of WG 8 since 2011, Profession: Consulting Structural Engineer and University Professor Contact: structures@robertratay.com

What is the objective of WG 8? The ultimate objective of Working Group 8 is to mitigate structural failures and improve forensic engineering practices. To those ends it endeavors to (i) report on the engineering investigation of structural failures; (ii) encourage improvements of design and construction practices based on the lessons learned from failures; (iii) publicise techniques of field and analytical investigation of failures; (iv) promote ethical forensic engineering practices; (v) inform of effective dispute resolution procedures; and (vi) through publications and seminars increase the awareness of students and practicing engineers of the causes, prevention and consequences of failures, thereby increasing the safety and reliability of structures.

What is WG 8 currently working on? We are preparing to expand to all IABSE member countries the recently completed survey of forensic engineering practices in some European countries and the US. We are organising sessions at upcoming IABSE conferences.

What are future plans of WG 8? – Evaluate and disseminate the information obtained from the expanded global survey of forensic engineering practices.
- Organise regional conferences on forensic structural engineering practices.
- Promote and deliver seminars/workshops on forensic structural engineering practices in various countries.

Are there any recent activities or issues of WG 8 you would like to mention? We have completed the initial survey of the upcoming global review of forensic engineering practices, and presented a paper at the ASCE 6th Congress on Forensic Engineering, November 1-3, 2012, in San Francisco, entitled “An Initial Survey of Forensic Engineering Practices in Some European Countries and the USA” prepared by several members of the WG.

Do you (or your WG) interrelate with other groups outside IABSE? Both the Chairman and several members of the WG 8 participate in the activities and/or publish in the journals of the ASCE Technical Council on Forensic Engineering, the UK Institution of Civil Engineers and its Forensic Engineering Journal, and the national engineering societies of the individual members.

Do you have any wishes from IABSE? To support and assist in the realisation of regional conferences and seminars/workshops on forensic structural engineering practice.