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Preliminary Announcement

The Second International Conference on Structural Engineering, Mechanics and Computation

Introduction

The Second International Conference on Structural Engineering, Mechanics and Computation (SEMC 2004) will be held in Cape Town (South Africa) from 5 to 7 July 2004. The conference is organised by the University of Cape Town, and the conference venue will be on the upper campus of the university, commanding some of the best views in Cape Town. Cape Town itself is a beautiful, modern and culturally diverse city situated close to the southern tip of the African continent, and easily accessible from all parts of the world.

Aims of conference

The SEMC 2004 International Conference is a follow-up on the highly successful SEMC 2001 International Conference, which was held in Cape Town in 2001. Like the first conference, SEMC 2004 will aim at bringing together from around the world academics, researchers and practitioners in the broad area of structural engineering, to review recent achievements in the advancement of structural engineering, share the latest developments, and address the challenges that the future poses. It was hoped that the cross fertilisation between theory and practice that is anticipated will promote a better understanding of structural behaviour, facilitate more realistic structural modelling, lead to the development of more appropriate computational schemes, and enhance the confidence of structural-engineering practice.

Scope of conference and topics covered

In the spirit of the envisaged SEMC series of international conferences, the scope of SEMC 2004 will be broad, covering all aspects of structural mechanics and structural computation, as well as the application of these to the practice of structural engineering. Specific topics will include:

- Structural analysis
- Numerical methods
- Structural dynamics
- Vibration analysis of engineering structures
- Design for earthquake and storm resistance
- Design for fire resistance

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- Design for blast and impact resistance
- Plastic behaviour of structures
- Stability of structures
- Buckling of thin-walled members
- Optimisation in design
- Lightweight structures
- Plate, shell and space structures
- Concrete and masonry structures
- Steel and aluminium structures
- Glass and timber structures
- Composite construction
- Structural materials
- Bridges and buildings
- Special and unusual structures
- Structural foundations
- Soil–structure interaction
- Loadings on structures
- Long-term performance of structures
- Durability of structures
- Structural safety and reliability
- Damage assessment and repair
- Strengthening and rehabilitation
- Architectural considerations
- Construction technology and methods
- Environmental impact of structural developments

Submission and publication of papers

The first announcement and call for papers will be sent out in March 2002, with details on the submission of abstracts and papers. All abstracts and full papers will be reviewed by an International Scientific Advisory Board. Accepted papers will be published as Proceedings of the Second International Conference on Structural Engineering, Mechanics and Computation, and selections of the best papers will also be featured in Special Issues of a number of Elsevier Science journals.

Conference format

The conference itself will feature keynote addresses and invited lectures by leading international experts in various specialist areas, as well as presentations by authors of all accepted papers. There will be plenary/general sessions, special sessions, workshop sessions and parallel technical sessions. The language of communication will be English.

Accommodation and tours

SEMC 2004 participants will have a choice of world-class affordable hotels close to the conference venue, at special rates negotiated by the organisers. A limited number of university student-type residential rooms will also be available on a first-come-first-served basis. Details will follow in future announcements.

Cape Town and the Cape region in general are a popular tourist destination, blessed with scenic surrounds and numerous attractions. Table Mountain, Robben Island (a world heritage site), Cape Point, the Winelands and the Garden Route are but just a few; the spectacular Victoria Falls (another world heritage site) are a relatively short flight away. Sightseeing tours will be arranged for delegates and accompanying persons during the conference and afterwards.

Registration fee

The basic registration fee is US\$400 for authors and US\$450 for non-author participants. This will cover attendance at all sessions of the conference, one set of the published SEMC 2004 Conference Proceedings, the welcome reception and the conference dinner. Registration forms and payment details will be available with the first announcement and call for papers.

Conference Website

All information on the SEMC 2004 International Conference will be made available on the conference website (address to be advised soon), which will be regularly updated.

Further information

For further details, please contact:

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