

Editorial

Pavement engineering lies at the heart of modern society in both technologically advanced and developing countries. Delivery of goods and services to markets and consumers depends on the provision of reliable road surfaces, airport runways, railroad tracks, dock-sides and storage yards. In most countries the primary means of transport is by motorised wheeled vehicles so that, without pavements, the population would be without food, clothing, building materials and consumer goods. Against this background, it is hardly surprising that pavement engineering has become a major academic and practical discipline. There are a burgeoning number of conferences – national, regional, international and specialist – which allow the interchange of ideas both at an academic level and in supporting commercial implementation in practice. But it seemed strange to us that there has been no journal dedicated to this important type of construction, its performance, its maintenance and its component materials. This first issue of *The International Journal of Pavement Engineering* which you have in your hands is our attempt at redressing this omission.

Our purpose in founding the Journal is to help transfer knowledge. If you are fortunate enough to be able to attend some of the many pavement engineering conferences, you will fairly readily become aware of new developments in pavement technology, its application and its analysis. For many engineers, attendance is a luxury they cannot afford either in terms of time or money. For you, we want the Journal to be an important source of information and professional development. Additionally, we have taken the epithet 'International' as we are conscious that excellent research and practice often takes place in parts of the World without us knowing much about it. We

hope the Journal will play an important rôle in bringing that work to the widest readership. In a shrinking world, with a global market the need for this is becoming almost self-evident.

It is our intention that the Journal should publish latest research findings together with case records of successful (and not-so-successful) usage and performance. In an academic climate of 'publish or die' it is unlikely that we will run short of submissions from university and other research centers. However, we are hoping that you and your colleagues will report issues of practice and experience too. We don't think that it is essential that every paper includes a novel contribution to knowledge. From our point of view it is equally important that we have papers reminding readers of old truths and illustrating ways of overcoming difficulties in pavement engineering practice. Of course, we recognise that practitioners seldom receive encouragement to write articles about their work (and sometimes receive some discouragements), but we hope that some of you will rise to the challenge and tell your colleagues what you have been doing, the problems faced and the successes achieved.

We are seeking out some state-of-the-art reviews, by which we aim to transfer advanced pavement understanding to the user community. We also hope to deliver some symposia-in-print from time to time and are discussing the possibility of publishing some key papers from a speciality conference in this form.

If you haven't yet submitted a paper, then we invite you to do so. You will find a description of the wide scope of the Journal (Practice, Theory, Plant, Maintenance, Management, Materials, etc., etc.) and the style required in submitted papers on the inside front cover and at the end of this issue. Practical case

studies, academic research studies and technical notes (brief papers on one point) are all invited. Although we haven't introduced a formal discussion process or timetable for the published papers, we welcome constructive discussion of the papers. Please e-mail your contributions to one of us within three months of publication, and we will review them for possible inclusion.

We hope that you find this first issue useful; thank you for your interest. If you have refereed a paper for us, then we are very thankful to you; it's by this means that we will keep the standard of contributions high. If you have submitted a paper then we thank you for the hard work you took in preparing it. A big thank you to the editorial team at Gordon + Breach

for accepting our suggestion of a journal for pavement engineers and for the hard work which goes behind every issue, especially the first. Finally a special word of thanks to our long-suffering wives, Eunice and Judy, who, in terms of effort and anguish, are more worthy of having their names printed here than we are.

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