

The aim of *fib* publishing

“Structural Concrete” issue 2/2011 contains a number of interesting articles dealing with advanced seismic provisions for buildings, precast concrete elements, materials and bridges, investigated from the points of view of construction, monitoring and design. The problems discussed relate to structural performance at the service and ultimate limit states, modelling, environmental aspects, normative provisions, construction methods and means, maintenance and sustainability.

These represent a small but significant sample of the many issues dealt with by the *fib* journal over the decade of its publication, reflecting the broad interests of this federation. This is what makes *fib* one of the major world players in the field of structural concrete.

In fact, *fib* inherited and continues all the activities of CEB and FIP, both founded in the early 1950s, which were already interrelated and could take advantage of the work performed by the numerous national associations and scientific institutions. It was they who had developed research into concrete issues since the beginning of 20th century, in Europe and worldwide, and had made them converge into a common forum. By means of its 10 Commissions, with a total of about 40 Task Groups and about 7 Special Activity Groups, *fib* continues to promote and coordinate research and pre-normative work as well as organize symposia, workshops and courses.

Besides this journal, for sharing and disseminating knowledge, *fib* issues “Bulletins” on various levels: technical reports, state-of-the-art reports, manuals, guides, recommendations and model codes.

One important landmark due in 2011 is the presentation to the General Assembly of the latest version of the “Model Code 2010” (MC 2010), which will be discussed by the General Assembly in June and then submitted for approval. It is deemed to be a reference for the next generation of operational structural design codes, even if it may be used itself as such.

Together with its predecessors CEB and FIP, *fib* has played and continues to play quite an important role in structural standardization, particularly in Europe. Mainly Eurocode 2 (EC2), but also EC0, EC1 and EC8 as well as many other Eurocodes would not have been possible without CEB/FIP/*fib* preparatory studies and Model Codes.

It was in 1964 that the first Model Code (although not given yet that name) appeared, i.e. the “CEB Recommendations”. These were proposals for rules for the design of reinforced concrete structures, using for the first time the probabilistic reliability concepts and the limit states and partial safety factors approach.

The year 1970 saw the publication of the “CEB-FIP Recommendations for Concrete”, which updated and unified the models for reinforced concrete and/or any degree of prestressed concrete. These openly acknowledged for the first time the unity of behaviour of what would later be called “structural concrete”.

In 1978 the “CEB-FIP Model Code for Concrete Structures” (MC 78), explicitly conscious of being a “model” for codes, became the real father of the Eurocodes, whose project followed immediately. In particular, it divided the clauses into “principles” and “application rules”, the latter being only recommendations for fulfilling the principles.



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In 1990 the “CEB-FIP Model Code 1990” (MC 90) anticipated and helped the preparation of the Eurocodes, which was already in progress, and influenced the updating of most national codes.

Within *fib*, the work of “model coding” has continued. In 2006, while preparing MC 2010, the special, quite advanced “Model Code for Service Life Design” represented a particular anticipation of concepts related to life cycle design.

The approach of MC 2010 emphasizes the importance of conceptual design before engaging into analysis and detailed design. It proposes transparent models, accounts for construction technologies, considers new materials as well as existing structures, calls for sustainable development and is basically oriented towards full life cycle design.

Thus, the mission of *fib* goes on, and all its activities, expressed in several types of publications, converge every decade or so into the implementation of a MC, its most comprehensive and important one.



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fib Medal of Merit 2009