

RE: Fib Structural Concrete – March 2010

3rd International *fib* Congress – An Investment in Your Future!

When you think of the Third International *fib* Congress, one word comes to mind: Opportunity! The Congress couldn't be more important during these challenging economic times. While some people feel this is the time to cut back and reduce, in some respects, the opposite is true. This is a good time to invest and take advantage of unique opportunities that can make a difference in your future—the difference between barely surviving and truly thriving when the economy rebounds. The 2010 *fib* Congress in Washington, D.C., is a unique opportunity...an opportunity to learn, grow, expand, connect, diversify, solve, and share.

The Congress theme, “Think Globally, Build Locally,” hints at how we can take advantage of this opportunity. The Congress will provide access to the top international experts in the concrete industry in an international forum for sharing knowledge, state-of-the-art technology, and innovative ideas. From this global assembly of talent can be drawn ideas and techniques that can be locally applied.

“Each attendee can walk away with something to help them persevere, and probably even grow, through this tough economy.” says Michael Fardis, *fib* chair. “Maybe it will be that new product or technology that helps you become more efficient, or gives you an edge; maybe it will be that new relationship, partner, or customer that opens a new market; or maybe it will be that one paper or session that helps solve one of your toughest problems. Overall, the opportunities are great, and we look forward to experiencing them with you!”

James G. Toscas, president of PCI, adds: “When you bring this many experts together, you are going to get amazing results. This event is an unpredicted opportunity to tap into the knowledge and resources of the worldwide concrete industry.”

Here are a few reasons to be part of this remarkable event:

- **State-of-the-Art Technical Knowledge - The Experts Speak** – Over 500 peer-reviewed technical papers from over 45 countries will be presented. The scope of the technical program is substantial, addressing every area of concrete technology from design and analysis to materials and field operations, and representing most areas of the built environment, from bridges to buildings. There will be something here for everyone's interest.
- **Education and Professional Development** – Beyond the technical sessions, there will be dozens of educational sessions presented by experts on marketing, finance, sustainability, business management, operations, and more. All technical sessions, and many nontechnical sessions, will qualify for continuing education credits.
- **Networking When You Need It Most** – This event will attract the top professionals in the concrete industry worldwide. There will be no better place or time to meet and talk with industry experts, connect with old friends, and build new relationships that can last a lifetime. There will be several social and networking events, highlighted by the "A Night on the Potomac River" dinner cruise. This truly unique, picturesque way to enjoy

Washington, D.C., will be held on Tuesday night. Separate registration is required and tickets are limited, so make your reservations today.

- **Exhibition Hall of Opportunity** – The 100,000-square-foot exhibit hall will be packed with over 100 exhibitions from around the globe, showcasing the latest innovations and products. Come find the technology, product, or service that can make a difference to your company or your career.
- **Tantalizing Tours** – Take in all of D.C. There are tours for every agenda, from technical tours of manufacturing facilities and projects to fun historic and cultural tours. Please visit our website for a complete and updated list of tours.

The combination of the Congress with the PCI Annual Convention and Bridge Conference makes the scale of this event truly unprecedented. Unlike a *fib* Symposium or PCI Convention alone, the Congress will encompass all types of structural concrete, including precast, prestressed, cast-in-place, and specialty products.

"I think very highly of both conventions, the *fib* Congress and PCI Convention," says Suneel Vanikar, Director of Transportation Systems for the U.S. Federal Highway Administration. "They are among the best technical and professional conventions in the world. I always return from these conventions with new ideas, additional exposure to new technology, interaction with world-class experts, and renewed enthusiasm for advancing new concrete technology."

The Third International *fib* Congress will take place from May 29 through June 2, 2010, in Washington, D.C. This is a great time of year to visit the Capital of the United States. Whether you enjoy touring museums, monuments, and historic sites; dining outside at a sidewalk café; or embarking in some of the many outdoor activities, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

Event and hotel registration are now open at www.fib2010washington.com. You can also visit www.pci.org and click on the "*fib*/PCI Convention" icon. Don't miss out! Register today!

For questions and more information about the event, visit www.fib2010washington.com or contact Colin Faul at cfaul@pci.org.

We look forward to seeing you in Washington!