

Preface

In recent decades it has been widely recognized that preventing of failure of engineering structures necessitates involvement of a large amount of expertise and, depending on the application, might require for a multi-disciplinary and multi-scale approach in terms of both, size and time. The series of the International Conference of Engineering Against Failure (ICEAF) aims to provide on a bi-annual basis a Forum to present relevant scientific and technological achievements and discuss with an audience of international experts. The scientific responsibility of the ICEAF V Conference was shared between the Laboratory of Technology & Strength of Materials (LTSM) and the Applied Electronics Laboratory (APEL), both University of Patras.

The first objective of the Conference was to provide a forum for presenting our latest research results to an international audience of reputable scientists as well as exchange our views on the works presented. Particular attention has been given at offering the opportunity to young researchers, from Greece and all over the world, to present their work in front of internationally recognized experts though at a friendly and academic environment.

The second objective of the Conference was that participants have fun and spend three beautiful days at a very beautiful island and furthermore to get in touch with the Greek culture in general and the culture of Chios in particular. Chios, which is believed to be the birth place of Homer, is maybe one of the most typical examples among the Greek islands where, over the centuries, various cultures met, sometimes confronted, and finally mixed up to give the unique features of each of these charming places.

This time our Conference had also a third objective. Due to its geographical location, Chios is one of the islands which have been mostly affected by the refugees' crisis. Our objective was to express, through our presence at Chios, our solidarity and respect to the authorities as well as in particular to the people of Chios who are overcoming themselves to provide any support and help possible to desperate human beings and recall the real sense of Humanism.

The fifth ICEAF Conference has been possible thanks to the hard work of a number of people and we want to thank cordially all of them. Particular thanks are due to our Keynote speakers, the members of the International Scientific Committee and of course the members of the local Organizing Committee who did an excellent job.

Last but definitely not least we want to thank our sponsors:

First of all, the Municipality of Chios for the hospitality and the permanent support. We want to thank also the Research Committee of the University of Patras, the School of Engineering of the University of Patras, the Hellenic Research Centre for Metals S.A. and SetPoint Technologies; their support has been valuable for organizing a nice Conference.

The Conference Co-Chairmen

Spiros Pantelakis and Stavros Koubias