

## FOREWORD

Established in 1981, the AUGC (The University - Association of Civil Engineering) aims developing and promoting the academic teaching (Undergraduate, Graduate, and PhD) and researches in the civil engineering field in the universities and high schools of the French Education.

The « RUGC » is the national forum in civil engineering organized annually by the AUGC for information dissemination and exchange, discussions and debates on research, learning and practice related to the construction field.

The 38th meeting of universities in civil engineering was to be organized by AUGC and Cadi Ayyad University of Marrakech and take place at Marrakech (Morocco) on May 2020. Unfortunately, due to covid pandemic the 38th meeting has been postponed to 2021 in Marrakech in agreement with the French and Moroccan organizers. We would like, here, to thank the French and Moroccan organizers for working towards postponing the conference.

Nevertheless, the AUGC decided to publish in this special issue all the accepted contributions submitted which benefits of regular peer reviewing. This special issue including 79 contributions from more than 300 peoples from several French speaking countries representing a wide range of academics, scientists, researchers, students, designers, policy makers and other industrialists from a wide variety of backgrounds, including fields of engineering, materials, sustainable, architecture, and ecological technologies, biomaterials, materials sciences, environmental engineering and government agencies, end-users, etc.

The RUGC'20 proceedings include the 38th edition of the René Houpert Award. It was decided to maintain this French special price to honor young researchers. It has been organized online by AUGC on September 23-24, 2020, through three parallel sessions. 14 young junior researchers have been presented their PhD works and 6 candidates have been nominated for the final presentation. The 2020 René Houpert Award has been won by Maroua Maaroufi.

On behalf of the scientific committee of AUGC, we would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to the online organizing committee and in particular to Pr Ouali Amiri for the PH-D Price, the technical and scientific staff of the journal; to all our contributors and participants for their carefully prepared, stimulating and thought provoking manuscripts without which this special issue could not be formed.

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