

Preface

This is a special issue to acknowledge the outstanding contribution of editorial board member Joost Walraven to the Journal Heron. He joined the editorial board of Heron in 2000 and will finish his editing activities by the end of 2016. In his period as editorial board member he was a very dedicated and enthusiastic contributor to this journal. He motivated colleagues to write papers for this journal and was a very stimulating factor in the editing process. He wrote articles himself for this journal or through his PhD-students or co-workers. This special issue is a perfect example of that.

Joost Walraven has the reputation of a leading scientist in the field of concrete structures and concrete materials science. After being appointed at the University of Darmstadt in 1985, he became professor at the Delft University of Technology at the famous Concrete Structures chair in 1989. Joost's impressive publication record is clearly recognized in the concrete science community. He has always been a science-driven person. His research domain is broad and ranges from shear failure, creep, shrinkage to the behaviour of pre-cast concrete structures and more recently also the behaviour of existing structures. The papers in this issue are mainly concerned with this topic. In the last decade he also performed very relevant research on novel types of concrete, such as fiber-reinforced concrete, self-compacting concrete and high-performance concrete.

For his work he received numerous prestigious awards, such as the Swedish Concrete Award (1991), FIP Award (1998) and an honorary doctorate from the University of Kassel in Germany. Joost is also a frequent and well-respected member of national and international committees. He was president of the International Concrete Federation *fib* from 2000 to 2002. He was also very active in code committees (e.g. Eurocode, *fib*).

On behalf of the editorial board members, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to Joost Walraven for the extremely valuable contributions he made to the Journal over such a long period of time. He always showed a much-appreciated critical attitude in the reviewing processes. Due to his efforts Heron further established its national and international reputation in the field of structural mechanics, construction and building materials.

Bert Sluys
Editor-in-chief

