Foreword

Welcome to the January issue of RISEN newsletter.

We are very delighted to welcome you all back from the festive season. Our monthly update shows a strong performance of secondments in Year 3, with a minor change to 78% (by April 2019). It is important to note that we need to declare the actual secondments on ‘EU Participation Portal’ within 20 days after the start of the secondment. As there will be about 15 months till the end, we would be grateful to know if any European partner wishes to reallocate secondments (either give away or take more), so please kindly let us know.

There will be a web-meeting to report and discuss the progress of RISEN. We plan this Goto-Meeting consortium meeting event to be at the end of March 2019. We will send you more details in February 2019.

We will soon send you an invitation to contribute for an edited book ‘Best Practices Handbook of Rail Infrastructure Resilience’, to be published by Elsevier. This will be followed by another book ‘Best Practices Handbook of Advanced Rail Condition Monitoring’.

There will be a couple of events this year for RISEN. First, the ECR Training Workshop will be organised in June 2019, and the Summer Course on Railway Engineering will be around September 2019. We will provide more information about this in coming months.

Congratulations to our RISEN ECRs: Ms Tingyu Xin (Secondment at MerMec), who recently completed her PhD, has been appointed a Research Fellow at UoB. Congratulations also go Mr Chayut Ngamkhanong (Secondment at Evoleo) for the inaugural ‘Professor Joseph M Sussman Best Paper Prize’ from Frontiers in Built Environment (2019).

There were a number of very positive news last year (e.g. European Commission Innovation Radar’s recognition for ‘Excellent Innovations’) and we have already kicked off with some of the good news this year. Hopefully, this will continue as the trend for 2019.

Best wishes and take care,

RISEN Coordinator

Dr Sakdirat Kaewunruen, the University of Birmingham, UK; Twitter: @risen2017, YouTube Channel: ‘RISEN2Rail’

URL: www.risen2rail.eu
Message from RISEN Researcher, seconded at The University of Illinois

My name is Sarah Tell and I am a Ph.D. student at KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden. Recently, I have spent a month at the Smart Structures Technology Laboratory (SSTL) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), USA. During my stay, I had been working in collaboration with the research group led by Prof. B.F. Spencer, Jr. and, especially, with the help of Ph.D. student Ali Najafi. The joint research has been focused on Real-Time Hybrid Simulations (RTHS) of a system with a full-scale magnetorheological damper connected to a bridge model. The exchange period had been very rewarding, both for my research project dealing with vibration mitigation of high-speed railway bridges, as well as from a personal perspective with new life experiences. I am truly grateful for the time I got to spend at UIUC and for the possibility to learn from some of the most prominent researchers within the field. The welcoming atmosphere, the humble attitude and helpfulness among the fellow researchers are some things that I will never forget.

Congratulations to RTRI

Congratulations to our partner, Railway Technical Research Institute (RTRI). Three of RTRI’s researchers won the UIC Global Research & Innovation Awards 2018. UIC’s International Rail Research Board (IRRB) took initiative in creating these awards in order to develop and enhance railway transportation at the global level and make it more attractive, cost effective and sustainable. The award ceremony took place on December 7 at the UIC Headquarters in Paris and the following three researchers of RTRI attended the ceremony and were given the awards: Masahiro Korenaga (Safety & Security Award), Ken Watanabe (Sustainable Development Award) and Itaru Matsumura (Cost Reduction Award).

More than 2200 people drawn to UK-Japan Symposium on Highspeed Rails at the University of Birmingham, UK

UK Japan Symposium on Highspeed Rails was hosted at the University of Birmingham by Dr Kaewunruen, who received JSPS Invitation Research Fellowship (Long-term) in 2015 to carry out his research on ‘smart and sustainable railways’ at Japan Railway Technical Research Institute and the University of Tokyo. The full event report has been published in JSPS Newsletter vol. 58, 2018 Autumn. URL: http://www.jsps.org/newsletter/JSPSNL_58.pdf

Congratulations to UoW Professor Alex Remennikov

Congratulations to our international partner, Chair Professor Alex Remennikov (University of Wollongong) and Professor Brian Uy (Sydney). They have successfully launched The ARC-LIEF National Facility for Physical Blast Simulation (NFPBS) on December 12, 2018. The grand opening launch was successfully organized and extremely well received from partner organisations. This national facility is located as part of UoW together with the National Facility for Cyclic Testing of High-speed Rail.

News and Events (please kindly submit your news, marketing and event items to s.kaewunruen@bham.ac.uk)

- We are very pleased to announce that the 12th World Congress on Railway Research - WCRR 2019 will be held in Tokyo, Japan, at the venue called ‘Tokyo International Forum’ from October 28 to November 1, 2019 hosted by the Railway Technical Research Institute (RTRI), of the Japan Railways (JR) group. For details, please see: http://wcrr2019.org/cfp.html
- RISEN will proudly host a special session on railway infrastructure engineering at the Congress on Numerical Methods in Engineering (CMN 2019), which will be held in Guimarães, Portugal, in July 1-3, 2019. For more information, please visit http://www.cmn2019.pt/
- RISEN will proudly host a mini-symposia on Computational Mechanics and Dynamics in Transport and Rail Infrastructure at The Asia Pacific Congress on Computational Mechanics, which will be held in Taipei, in December 18-21, 2019. For more information, please visit http://www.apcom2019.org