Welcome to the September issue of RISEN newsletter.

Welcome back to our busy Autumn term in Europe. Firstly, special thanks to all EU partners who help complete the monthly update of secondment plan. We will now reach over 80% of secondments at the end of Year 3 (April 2019). If anyone wishes to release or take more secondment months, please kindly let us know.

During the summer, there were a number of events run by RISEN partners. In early September, a large number of RISEN partners and researchers attended Railways 2018 in Barcelona. Many face-to-face meetings with RISEN partners happened over the course of 4 days. Congratulations to our partners: Dist. Prof. Buddhima Indraratna (UoW) and Prof. Akira Matsumoto (Nihon U), who were honoured in the keynote lectures during the conference.

In mid-September, Chair Prof Zili Li (TUDelft) successfully hosted the world-renowned CM2018 in Delft. The event attracted a large number of international participants as well as RISEN researchers. A number of special collections of papers are in the pipeline. In late-September, Birmingham successfully hosted the JSPS UK-Japan Symposium on Highspeed Rails (with Prof Akira Matsumoto, Dr Makoto Ishida, and Dr Chen Hua as the Japanese keynote speakers). This event attracted over 140 participants and the Facebook live-feeds of the event amazingly attracted over 2,100 online viewers. Further contribution is cordially invited via: [www.frontiersin.org/research-topics/8613/uk-japan-symposium-on-highspeed-rails](https://www.frontiersin.org/research-topics/8613/uk-japan-symposium-on-highspeed-rails).

More good news: Big congratulations to Prof. Raid Karouni (KTH) who has been featured during TV interviews as a subject matter expert on bridge engineering. Also, he is the winner of 2018 Sigge Thernwalls Stora Byggpris Prize. If you can understand Swedish, please see: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2MAT3JRX9dE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2MAT3JRX9dE).

We are very proud to hear the successes of our RISEN partners in every corner of the world. This is the evidence showing the grand and global contribution of RISEN in every aspect of infrastructure resilience and monitoring. If you have any news, please kindly let us know. We will try our best to promote you and your research.

Best wishes and take care,

**RISEN Coordinator**

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**Note:** RISEN website has appended more videos of various interviews highlighting international secondments. Please check it out!
‘UK-Japan Symposium on Highspeed Rails’

RISEN UOB successfully hosted the ‘UK-Japan Symposium on Highspeed rails’ on the 21st of September 2018 at the University of Birmingham. This event was sponsored by the JSPS (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science) and JSPS London. ‘UK-Japan Symposium on Highspeed Rails’ addressed one of the most pressing issues in the U.K. High speed rail systems make significant difference to the public and provide positive contribution towards the environmental, social and economic sustainability of the communities they serve. They exist to provide social and economic connections, and people quickly take up the opportunities offered by increased mobility. Globally, high speed rails have proven to be the essential catalyst for regional growth and enhanced the quality of everyday life. This symposium thus presented a great opportunity for the UK industry to access to extensive expertise from the pioneer in highspeed rails.

The event attracted over 1400 attendants from academia, rail industry, governments and suppliers. There were 3 invited speakers from Japan, 5 from the U.K. and additional oral presentations from practical engineers, researchers and students. A poster session was also organized during lunch and coffee break from RISEN researchers. The event was successfully organized and extremely well received by both international and domestic research and industrial communities. Facebook live-feeds of the event have been watched by more than 2,100 online viewers internationally.

RISEN Team participated in Railway Conference 2018

From 3 to 7 September 2018, RISEN Team chaired and gave many presentations in Railways Conference held in Sitges, Barcelona, Spain. The themes for this conference included rolling stock, infrastructure, energy and environment, signalling and communication, planning and operations, strategies and economics. RISEN UOW (Prof. Buddhima Indraratna) was also invited to be a keynote speaker on the topic of “The role of energy absorbing materials in heavy haul rail for minimising track degradation”. Overall RISEN partners have contributed for more than 20 papers and presentations in Railways 2018.

RISEN UOB hosted a seminar by guest speaker from Western Sydney University

RISEN UOB had warmly welcomed Dr Oliver Mirza, a Senior Lecturer in Structural Engineering, Western Sydney University, Sydney, Australia. She narrated on a topic: "Rehabilitation for Ageing Infrastructures through Innovative Retrofitting Method". The talk focused on the repairing and strengthening of ageing infrastructures, especially bridges, in order to prolong service life and take increasing loads. The event was well received by UOB’s students, postdoctorals and researchers. Several external industry partners had also participated.

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/