Special Issue

Durability and Intelligent Evaluation of Concrete Structures

Message from the Guest Editors

Concrete structures are widely applied to buildings and infrastructures in both developed and developing countries. Although concrete is generally considered a durable construction material, there is still a great durability concern when concrete structures are subjected to harsh environments or fatigue loading. A great number of concrete structures in service need to be evaluated and repaired to ensure their safety and the maintenance of these existing concrete structures, which consume significant portions of the national wealth of countries and make conventional human-based interventions inappropriate. Moreover, structural damages or defects are usually hidden and cannot be visualized from their appearance, and thus, it is difficult to evalute the performance of concrete structures and to propose a proper maintenance scheme. To solve these problems, intelligent evaluation methods need to be investigated so that proper maintenance schemes can be developed and the durability of the concrete structures before and after strengthening can be predicted.

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As the world of science becomes ever more specialized, researchers may lose themselves in the deep forest of the ever increasing number of subfields being created. This open access journal *Applied Sciences* has been started to link these subfields, so researchers can cut through the forest and see the surrounding, or quite distant fields and subfields to help develop his/her own research even further with the aid of this multi-dimensional network.

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