We welcome you to the 6th International Footbridge Conference here in Berlin from 6th to 8th September. As with the preceding events held in Paris, Venice, Porto, Wroclaw and London, bridge designers and builders from all over the world have come together to share their views, to exchange ideas, to learn and—last but not the least—to catch up with colleagues and friends.

Footbridges are an important component of our built environment, they can add a lot to the culture of building and they are exciting to work on. Their design brings together experts from numerous disciplines, such as civil engineers and architects, artists, landscape designers and lighting experts.

This sixth conference follows in the footsteps of earlier conferences in that the theme of structural dynamics—Dynamics and Innovation—which triggered the first conference in Paris, will be kept on the agenda. What is new in this conference is that there are two themes that the Scientific Committee have identified as stimulating and important not only to the footbridge community, but also to the designers working in many other fields of construction:

- Cultivate Debate
- Footbridges for Berlin

Mike Schlaich (Chairman of the Scientific Committee), Laurent Ney and José Romo (Co-Chairmen).

ROBERT SCHWENTKE

PHILIPPE BLOCK
Philippe Block is Associate Professor at the Institute of Technology in Architecture, ETH Zurich, where he co-directs the Block Research Group (BRG) with Dr. Tom Van Mele. Block is director designate of the Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research (NCCR) in Digital Fabrication and founding partner of Ochsendorf Delong & Block (ODB Engineering). He studied architecture and structural engineering at the VUB, Belgium, and at MIT, USA, where he earned his PhD in 2009. The BRG’s research focuses on equilibrium analysis, computational form finding, optimisation and construction of curved surface structures. Within the NCCR, the BRG develops structurally informed bespoke prefabrication strategies and novel construction paradigms for digital and robotic fabrication.

JAMES BROWNJOHN
Professor Brownjohn joined the University of Exeter after an academic career in Bristol, Singapore Plymouth and Sheffield focusing on experimental assessment of the performance of a range of civil structures, very often footbridges, and inevitably involving full-scale dynamic testing. His relevant research and professional interests include vibration serviceability, system identification and biomechanics. His experience with ambient vibration testing and operational modal analysis using minimal equipment is a complement to traditional forced vibration testing using shakers. He is a founding director of Full Scale Dynamics Ltd, an University spin-off company, and Principal Investigator for the Exeter EPSRC VSimulators facility for studying human factors in motion of the built environment.
KEITH BROWNLIE
Keith Brownlie has been involved in designing interesting and sometimes innovative bridge projects for 25 years. He is an Architect and director of Anglo-Danish practice Brownlie Ernst and Marks (BEaM) and was formerly a director of Wilkinson Eyre in London, responsible for many well-known international footbridges and other infrastructure works. BEaM is a specialist bridge architectural consultancy with projects all over the world and is busy navigating the widely varying design and business cultures it experiences in different locations. He is an European, and a former resident of Berlin.

DIETMAR FEICHTINGER
Dietmar Feichtinger established Dietmar Feichtinger Architects (DFA) in Paris in 1993. With about thirty employees between Paris and Vienna the team operates mainly in Europe. DFA has built a strong reputation for its inventive structures and its investigative approach to design. Its work links both architecture and engineering whilst exploring the dynamics between these two disciplines. In a constant strive DFA is looking for integrating environmental and sustainable development, in an elegant and sensitive architecture, respectful of nature and humans. Dietmar Feichtinger Architects is internationally-honoured with architecture awards and publications for excellence in design and their built projects.

JAN KNIPPERS
Jan Knippers is a structural engineer and partner as well as co-founder of Knippers Helbig Advanced Engineering with offices in Stuttgart, New York City and Berlin. The focus of his work is on structural design for international and architecturally demanding projects. Since 2000 Jan Knippers is head of the Institute for Building Structures and Structural Design (itke) at the University of Stuttgart. As such he is speaker of the Collaborative Research Centre ‘Biological Design and Integrative Structures’ funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG).

MARC MIMRAM
Born in Paris in 1955, Marc Mimram has a Master’s Degree in Mathematics from the Université Paris VII (1976), an Engineering Diploma from the École Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées (1978), a Master’s Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley (1979), an Architecture Diploma (DPLG) from the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts in Paris (1980), and a Post-Graduate Degree in Philosophy from the Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne (1982). He founded his own consultancy and architecture-engineering firm in 1992. Since 1981, he began as architect-engineer, he has completed many civil engineering structures and architectural projects in France and abroad: Bridges in France, in Germany, in Morocco (Rabat-Salé) which won the Aga Khan Price, in China, buildings as large sports facilities and infrastructure buildings.

JIRI STRASKY
Professor at the Brno University of Technology and Partner at the design firm Strasky, Husty and Partners, Brno, Czech Republic & Greenbrae, California USA. Registered Civil Engineer in the Czech and Slovak Republic and seven states in the USA. Expertise in the design of cantilever, arch, cable-stayed, suspension and stress ribbon bridges built in Europe and in North and South America and Asia. Participated in the design of award winning projects. Author of many papers and several books. The most important is the book: Stress ribbon and cable supported pedestrian bridges, Telford Publishing, London 2005 and 2011. For his work he received many awards, the most important are Freyssinet Medal from the fib, and Prix Albert Caquot from French Association for Civil Engineering.

WOLFGANG VOLZ
Wolfgang Volz, born in 1948 in Tuttlingen, Germany, studied photography with Prof. Otto Steinert and Prof. Erich vom Endt at the University Folkwangschule, Essen, Germany. In 1971 he met the artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude, marking the beginning of a beautiful friendship and collaboration. Since then he has worked as exclusive photographer, co-director, technical director and project manager for the projects of Christo and Jeanne Claude, for example the Wrapped Reichstag (Berlin), the Wrapped Trees (Basel), The Wall (Oberhausen), The Gates (New York City), the Big Air Package (Oberhausen), The Floating Piers (Lake Iseo, Italy). Besides his activities as the “eye of Christo and Jeanne-Claude”, Wolfgang Volz is one of the world’s best-known science, industry and landscape photographers.