

## CONFERENCE CONCRETE 4.0

**Ha-Be Middle East hosted another edition of its successful meeting**

The “Concrete 4.0” conference took place on October 26, 2017 in Dubai. Representatives of various companies and experts joined the event that was dedicated to durable concrete designs.

Klaus Hofmann, General Manager, opened the event pointing at Ha-Be’s slogan “Making good concrete better”. Making good concrete better, making it durable, was not only important for ecology, but also economy - as maintenance of degrading concrete structures of inferior quality is of significant cost.

*“Many concrete structures deteriorate prematurely due to their continuous interactions with the service environment, where physical and chemical processes in concrete cause its damage”.*

To improve the service life of concrete structures, it requires a deeper understanding of the deterioration mechanisms and the use of smart admixtures, supplementary cementitious materials as well as methods and technologies. For this, he passed on the stage to Marcel Paulitsch, Technical Manager of Ha-Be Middle East.

Addressing the growing need for a long service life with minimal maintenance, he started his presentation with a comprehensive overview of Ha-Be products and solutions that are available to enhance the durability and service life of concrete structures.

He also introduced Ha-Be’s recently developed DURAHIT® line, a waterproofing system, and highlighted the benefits of Ha-Be’s Silica Fluid.

Following Marcel Paulitsch’s presentation, Michel Di Tommaso, General Manager of Istituto Meccanica dei Materiali SA, moved to the lectern. As durability starts with a concrete mix design, which is properly matched to the service conditions the concrete will be exposed to, he highlighted available options for achieving appropriate durability and how it can be specified and designed, with emphasis placed on the Middle Eastern standards.

Concluding the presentations, Raúl Pina Zapardiel, representing Acciona Infrastructure SA, then moved to the stage to talk about aspects of construction processes, which can have an influence on durability. Referring to recent projects and different environmental conditions, he presented appropriate solutions to ensure concrete durability on-site.

Marcel Paulitsch brought the official part of the conference to a close, announcing the winner of the conference’s raffle and reminded once again on the importance of concrete durability:

*“Keep in mind.. creating durable concrete is a process.. yet...with proper mix design, high-quality admixtures, and attention to permeability reduction, good jointing, placing and curing practices, we can create durable concrete structures... and they will resist the development of deteriorating conditions and mechanisms!”*

The “Concrete 4.0” is a series of conferences, providing a platform for industry professionals to learn about recent developments within the industry and an opportunity to establish contacts and to share ideas.