PREFACE

This issue contains a selection of papers presented at the 5th International Conference on Flood Risk Management and Response which took place on San Servolo Island, Venice, organised by the Wessex Institute of Technology and Birmingham City University of the UK.

Flooding continues to be a major environmental hazard that affects all world regions. This has been demonstrated in recent months with flash floods in China, US, France, Germany and the UK bringing severe disruption and damage to communities. It is important that these communities become more resilient to flooding as it is inevitable that these events will become more prevalent in the future. The research findings published in these papers provide new insight into how this might be achieved, drawing on evidence from a range of international contexts and flood risk challenges.

A key feature of emerging flood risk management approaches is the need to accept that some flooding is inevitable and that communities need to become more resilient. This demands that community members take some responsibility and ownership of 'living with water'. For home owners and businesses this means taking steps to make their property more resilient to the effects of flooding, so that they can quickly return to normal in the aftermath of a flood. Indeed, retrofit and adaptation of the existing building stock represents a vitally important part of a long term integrated approach to flood risk management.

The papers in this issue discuss all these topics. They contribute a valuable source of up to date information regarding the understanding of flood events and the appropriate response, together with the more recent studies on flood recovery and resilience.

The papers included in this issue, as well as all others resulting from meetings organised by the Wessex Institute of Technology, are archived in the Institute's eLibrary (http://www.witpress.com/elibrary) where they are permanently available to the international community.

The Editors
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