

Preface to the special issues of the Thirteenth European Wave and Tidal Energy Conference (EWTEC 2019)

Diego Vicinanza

THE 13th EWTEC Conference was held in the beautiful and ancient city of Naples and was organized by CONISMA (National Inter-University Consortium for Marine Sciences) from 1th to 6th Sept. 2019. CONISMA promotes and coordinates research and other scientific and application activities in the field of Sea Sciences among the 35 associated Universities. It was the first time that this biannual conference was held in Italy. The program featured:

- 58 technical sessions from Monday morning to Thursday noon
- 10 side events
- 2 half-day sponsored workshops
- 20 Exhibition booths

The scientific part of the conference was divided into 58 technical sessions. In all days 5 parallel sessions were run, except for the last session of Tuesday, when the parallel sessions were only 4. All papers were allotted 20 minutes (15+5) including time for questions, and change of presenters. Each session was composed of 8 presentations, 4 (1h20min) performed before the coffee break, and 4 after (1h20min). Giving finally 247 presentation slots. The average attendees per technical session varied by day between 50 and 70.

At EWTEC2019 the most up-to-date results from innovative research within both academia and industry were presented. Attendance was just higher than EWTEC2017, with a total of 531 participants. The proceedings contain 278 full papers (Table I). A highlight of the conference was a technical visit to the Natural Marine Energy Laboratory based in the San Vincenzo breakwater in Naples harbour. The visit consisted in a sailing tour, on the ship named "Tortuga" of the Naples

harbour main breakwater in which is located the Overtopping Breakwater for Energy Conversion. Over 150 delegates participated in the tour.

TABLE 1: NUMBER OF PAPERS ACCEPTED IN EWTEC 2019

Track	Accepted full papers
Wave resource	14
Tidal resource	18
Wave devices	59
Tidal devices	31
Wave hydrodynamics	43
Tidal Hydrodynamics	36
Power take off and control	25
Station-keeping & foundations	4
Structural mechanics	10
Environmental impact	19
Operations & maintenance	7
Economics, social aspects	12

The thematic tracks of the conference covered fundamental hydrodynamics, environmental impact assessment, economics, social and policy implications of wave and tidal energy. The tracks also included numerical modelling and thorough engineering studies, all specifically dedicated to the development of wave and tidal energy conversion devices. As the Chair of EWTEC 2019, I requested the international peer-reviewers, to nominate the best papers in their respective tracks. As a member of the Editorial Board of the International Marine Energy Journal (IMEJ), together with Prof A.S. Bahaj, the Editor-in-Chief, we have decided to dedicate four special issues of the journal to present the best papers selected from EWTEC2019 conference reviewed by at least two peer reviewers. We hope that the quality, depth and range of the papers will demonstrate the ongoing commitment of EWTEC to scientific rigour in the field of marine renewable energy.

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D.V. is the Chair of EWTEC 2019 and Associate Professor of Coastal Engineering at Università degli Studi della Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli", Italy (e-mail diego.vicinanza@unicampania.it).

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Prof Diego Vicinanza
Chair, EWTEC 2019