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Editorial

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The editorial –in-Chief would like to express sincere gratitude to all contributors and participants of the 2nd issue of the International Journal of Sustainable Construction (IJSC).

This second issue of the IJSC is dedicated to REHAB 2014- International Conference on Preservation, Maintenance and Rehabilitation of Historical Buildings and Structures and includes a selection of the best papers bringing together sustainability and historic buildings preservation.

Preservation of historic buildings and building sustainability comprises a complex relationship where principles of cultural significance and authenticity that may collide with technical interventions that aim to improve the sustainable performance of such buildings. Questions such as energy efficiency and use of new materials and technical systems emphasize the care that architects and other technicians must have on developing rehabilitation solutions for historic buildings.

Until now, few literature was published on this subject, showing that is important to give attention to this relationship. Therefore, the second issue of IJSC Journal wants to give an overview of some results of the research and that is being developed at international level in this field of study: "Certified sustainability for heritage buildings: development of the new rating system GBC Historic Building™"; "Structural repair of decayed old timber end beams"; "Sustainable networks in the rehabilitation of built historic heritage"; "Accessibility of urban spaces: analysis and solutions to make sustainable historical towns"; "Pull-down test of the rammed earth walls at Paga Lhakhang in the Kingdom of Bhutan"; "Basalt ropes: a new product for the rehabilitation of historical masonry"; "The need to link the tangible with the intangible: the challenges of infinite design life and perpetual maintenance"; "In-situ monitoring of thermal refurbishment on pre-1919 properties in Scotland".

The research and development in the fields of applying sustainability approaches to historic buildings is still a field of study where much is still to be done, being important that discussion and research on this field goes even further due the complexity of this subject.