



**MICHIGAN STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

**SiF News Letter – 2024-1**

September 10, 2024

Dear "*Structures in Fire*" Community,

Greetings from East Lansing, MI.

Hope you all had good summer/winter break. For me, this summer was a memorable one, in part due to very successful SiF conference organized by the University of Coimbra (UC) from June 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>. Aren't we all glad that we finally said goodbye to the virtual mode and returned to in-person SiF conferences?

The 13<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Structures in Fire (SiF 2024), held at the beautiful city of Coimbra, Portugal, saw a great number of delegates, specially many first-time participants at a SiF conference. The high-quality technical program, together with well-planned social events and nice weather, made the conference an enjoyable event. Congratulations to the organizing committee, co-chaired by Profs. Aldina Santiago and Luís Simões da Silva, for hosting a very successful conference.

We received a total of 249 submissions, all of which were reviewed by at least three experts from a pool of 110 reviewers. Based on the reviews, a total of 172 papers were selected, of which 143 papers were finally submitted for presentation, with 132 papers being published in conference proceedings. We had 225+ participants attend the conference. We are very thankful to the scientific committee, chaired by Prof. Paulo Vila Real, for their hard work in finalizing the papers for the conference. A subset of these papers is being considered for possible publication in *Fire Safety Journal*. The conference proceedings from SiF 2024, as well as those from previous SiF conferences, are available on the SiF website <http://www.structuresinfire.com/corpo/conferences.html>. More detailed information on the SiF 2024 conference, including photos and awards, can be found at [SiF 2024 \(cmm.pt\)](http://www.structuresinfire.com/corpo/conferences.html).

The steering and organizing committees express sincere thanks to all the delegates and presenters, the local organising committee, Civil Engineering Department, CMM - Associação Portuguesa de Construção Metálica E Mista, and



COLLEGE OF  
**ENGINEERING**

Department of Civil and  
Environmental Engineering

**Venkatesh Kodur**

Univ. Distinguished Professor,  
Director, SAFE-D Center

Michigan State University  
3546 Engineering Building  
East Lansing, Michigan  
48824-1226

Phone: 517/353-9813  
Fax: 517/432-1827

E-Mail: [kodur@egr.msu.edu](mailto:kodur@egr.msu.edu)

Website: [www.egr.msu.edu/~kodur](http://www.egr.msu.edu/~kodur)

*MSU is an affirmative-action,  
equal-opportunity institution*

the Institute for Sustainability and Innovation in Structural Engineering (at UC) for their hard work in making the SiF 2024 a memorable event.

During the conference, SiF steering committee held a working meeting, the first in-person meeting since 2018, and discussed several issues to take the SiF movement forward. Prof. Kang Hai Tan could not be present at the meeting as his spouse just had a surgery. Prof. Jean Marc Franssen, the founding member of SiF who headed the steering committee for 25 years, has announced that he would be stepping down as the Chair of the steering committee. The steering committee thanked Jean Marc for his immense long-term service and his effective leadership in growing the SiF movement to all corners of the globe. An example of this growth is the huge increase in the number of delegates attending the SiF conferences, from 30+ in the 1<sup>st</sup> SiF workshop (held in Copenhagen in 2000) to 225+ in the 13<sup>th</sup> SiF international conference (in Coimbra in 2024). Jean Marc continues to be active in fire research and technology transfer activities and we will see him again in our conferences. For this reason, the steering committee requested Jean Marc to continue to guide the steering committee, as honorary member of this committee.

The steering committee has decided to invite Prof. Thomas Gernay to join the steering committee, in place of Jean Marc. Thomas, whom many of you know well, is an Assistant Professor at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD, USA. He is one of the leading researchers in the structural fire engineering discipline and is quite active within the SiF movement. We are pleased that he accepted our invitation, and we are looking forward to his continued service to the SiF movement. The steering committee also deliberated on the next Chairpersonship of the steering committee and then agreed that Prof. Kodur would be the Chair of the steering committee. I am honoured to serve the SiF community in this role and grateful to the committee for their confidence bestowed in me.

The steering committee also discussed the proposals received for hosting the next SiF conference in 2026. We received three proposals, two from North America, and one from Asia. Since the last two conferences were held in Asia and Europe, the steering committee decided, according to our rule of rotations between the continents, that the next SiF conference will go to North America. After reviewing two excellent proposals, the steering committee selected Queen's University, Canada, to host the *14<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Structures in Fire*. SiF 2026 will be held in Kingston, Canada, from May 19-22, 2026, and will be jointly organized by Prof. Mark F. Green, Queen's University, Kingston, and Prof. John Gales, York University, Toronto. Please save the date and help us advertise the conference among your own networks. Also, watch SiF website and emails for further information on SiF 2026 in the coming months.

Wishing you all a productive and enjoyable semester.

For the Steering Committee  
Venkatesh Kodur