

FORENSIC ENGINEERING WORKSHOP



Structural Failures – Investigations, Causes, Lessons Learned to Mitigate Failures

Date: August 26, 2025

Location: Gent ICC, Ghent, Belgium

Organized by:

IABSE – International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering

Workshop Objectives: The primary objective of this workshop is to provide an understanding of the origins, causes, and consequences of structural failures, the lessons learned from them, and how these insights can improve design practices and elevate the standard of care — all aimed at mitigating errors that may lead to failures and liabilities for engineers.

Secondary objectives include an introduction to the “first steps” after a failure and an outline of the forensic investigation process “after the dust has settled.”

Instructors:

Huibert Borsje, MSc – TNO, The Netherlands

John F. Duntemann, PE, SE – Wiss Janney Elstner Associates, USA

Dr. Harshavardhan Subbarao – Construma Consultancy Pvt. Ltd., India

Karel Terwel, MSc PhD RC – IMd Raadgevende ingenieurs, The Netherlands

Prof. Matías A. Valenzuela – Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, Chile

What to Expect:

An in-depth workshop on structural failure analysis, featuring international experts sharing case studies, investigative methods, and lessons learned to prevent future failures.

https://ghent2025.org/page/94/Short_course

