



## From the Editor

*This month's edition of Concrete Today is a mixed bag, featuring a diverse range of articles from self compacting concrete, to archaeology, Eurocodes for concrete and Dublin's port tunnel project. Also, for the first time Concrete Today is addressing the issue of sustainability.*

*Sustainability has been identified by the construction industry as one of the key issues going forward. To date the concrete industry has been slow to comment, which is not surprising given the complexity of the issue, the nature of the industry and in particular its reliance on hard scientific evidence as a *modus operandi*.*

*Establishing accurate models for assessing sustainability is a complex challenge and this task will take many years to complete. Indeed, there are many contradictory aspects to the concept of sustainability and this is one of the difficulties. At least some of what is currently being said and written lacks scientific rigour and is penned by marketing personnel with vested interests, or by independent commentators who have some knowledge but are less than fully informed. To some extent, the same criticism applies to our Concrete Today article which is also written by a vested interest, although some effort has been put into basing the article on established scientific evidence.*

*Our proposition in relation to sustainability is that no other construction material contributes to human well being and the quality and comfort of modern life as much as concrete. At present there is not a general consensus about this, but we in the concrete industry are confident that this reality will be recognised in the fullness of time and that the incredible flexibility of concrete, its inherent durability, thermal, fire and sound properties, will be appreciated by people for many centuries to come and beyond.*

*Brian Ó'Murchú*

*Marketing & Technical Manager, ICF.*