

PHD STUDENTS AS POSSIBLE FUTURE PROFESSORS

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Abstract

There has been a very successful PhD Symposium in November 2012 in Cluj-Napoca as “1st International Conference for PhD students in Civil Engineering and Architecture”. Present contribution gives an overview of the objectives and results of PhD conferences/symposia.

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1. PHD WORK AS HIGHEST LEVEL OF UNIVERSITY STUDIES

PhD studies provide the highest level of university education at every university. PhD studies are not only important for the PhD candidates themselves but equally important for their universities too, especially because the best young PhD candidates may become future university professors.

There is a very wide range of research topics that may serve for PhD research. All of these research topics should provide technical development in different ways. Analytical studies may support modelling and design, on the other hand, experimental studies help to specify material and structural behaviour.

To prepare a PhD thesis is a very high level of activity. It requires considerable efforts in laboratory testing, analysis, modelling and finally a synthesis of results that may serve to develop new scientific results. Results of PhD theses are often further used in teaching, in code development or in practical applications.

2. PHD STUDENTS AND PHD WORK

The years of the PhD studies for our young colleagues are very exciting years. They have plenty of questions about their work especially if they can finish it ever? The beginning is a hard work without too much success. It is followed with lots of evaluations and comparisons. And finally come (or expected to come) the success with the result of the completed PhD work.

Young PhD colleagues often approached me with the question: “How can I ever know that I am ready with my PhD work?” The answer is very simple....: when you have already red so

much and you have already done so many tests that you feel yourself to belong to the bests in your country (and is not case in the world) within your field of research. You will be surprised. This is possible if you work hard and especially are able to synthesize your results.

3. PHD SYMPOSIA IN GENERAL

When I became responsible for the PhD studies at my Faculty in 1996, I was about thinking to develop some special help to our PhD candidates in addition to the help that is provided by the supervisors. This type of Symposium was one of my ideas.

It was started at once internationally with the support of CEB at that time and now *fib*. After Budapest it travels around the world (Budapest-1996, -1998, Wien-2000, München-2002, Delft-2004, Zürich-2006, Stuttgart-2008, Copenhagen-2010, Karlsruhe-2012 and in the next years Quebec-2014, Tokyo-2016, Prague-2018). Nevertheless, it has already got a long tradition.

There are some unique features of PhD Symposia:

1. to provide a forum for PhD candidates in civil engineering to present the progress of their work,
2. to discuss the results of the ongoing PhD studies in order to support their future work,
3. to give the possibility to PhD candidates to establish contacts for international communication and

In PhD Symposia only PhD candidates are allowed to give presentations who have already started their PhD research but did not defend yet.

The professor colleagues are to stimulate discussions and act as chairmen or charladies.

4. SUCSESSFUL PHD SYMPOSIA IN CLUJ-NAPOCA

Prof. Cosmin G. Chiorean and his colleagues from Faculty of Civil Engineering, Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, organized the very successful 1st International Conference for PhD students in Civil Engineering and Architecture in Cluj-Napoca in 2013. They have been supported by many professors from several universities.

The PhD Symposium in Cluj-Napoca was also an important possibility for the researchers who will present their work here.

I wish a successful series of PhD Symposia for civil engineers and architects at the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca.