

# Preface

This volume is a collection of the edited papers presented at the 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Fracture and Damage Mechanic (FDM2007), held in Madeira, Portugal, during July 17-19, 2007. Previous meetings were held at London, UK(1999), Milan, Italy(2001), Paderborn, Germany(2003), Mallorca, Spain(2005) and Harbin, China(2006).

The conference which was attended by scientists from 21 countries served as a forum to promote and exchange the latest experimental and theoretical research works on fracture and damage mechanics as well as structural integrity and durability. Two special symposiums on Fatigue assessment of welded structures and Surface Treatment were organised by Profs. L.Susmel and M Guagliano, respectively.

The FDM2007 covers a wide range of topics: Fracture Mechanics, Fatigue, Failure Analysis, Corrosion , Creep, Non-linear Problems, Dynamic Fracture, Residual Stress, Environmental Effects, Crack Propagation, Repair Technique, Composite Materials, Ceramics & Polymers, Metallic Materials, Concrete, Probabilistic Aspects, Risk Analysis, Damage Tolerance, Fracture Control, Computer Modelling Methods, Microstructural and Micromechanical Modelling.

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Editors

J.Alfaiate

M.H. Aliabadi

M Guagliano

L Susmel