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# Preface

This interesting IJSFC special volume is an initiative of Toshimitsu Yokobori arising from the Sir Alan Cottrell Symposium at ICF13 (www.ICF13.org).

There have been many substantial memorial publications for Cottrell (1919–2012) a giant in our field of Structural Integrity and one of the Founding Fathers of ICF with Takeo Yokobori. One of the most comprehensive papers in this regard is by John Knott (TAGSI-FESI Proceedings April 2013) the most prominent of Cottrell's many research students who variously worked with Cottrell at both Birmingham and Cambridge Universities from the 1940s.

Were Cottrell alive today, along with George Irwin and Alan Griffith these three would be outstanding candidates (in our opinion) for the 2015 Queen Elizabeth Prize in Engineering (www.qeprize.org) – for creating the universally beneficial "Safer Engineering" contribution to global humanity.

ICF is nonetheless in the process of nominating a group of second and third generation researchers for the 2015 QEP for the wide-ranging contribution of structural integrity and fracture mechanics research in developing safer engineering in materials and structures largely published in our ICF quadrennial proceedings since 1965.

Recommendations for the 2015 QEP (closing date July 14, 2014) should be addressed to Emmanuel Gdoutos ICF14 Executive Chairman (www.ICF14.org).

ICF takes global responsibility for developing in the 21st century the discipline which Griffith, Irwin, Cottrell, Yokobori and others have evolved in the 20th century. Meanwhile we commend this IJSFC project as a beneficial spin-off from ICF13 and as a companion special publication to the IJSFC Sendai Conference 2010 – and look forward to the Pan-Europe ICF14 in Rhodes, Greece in June 2017.

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