

Engaging Globally

ACI Signs MOU to Advance Joint Initiatives with the Ministry of Equipment and Water

ACI and the Ministry of Equipment and Water (Ministère de l'Équipement et de l'Eau)—The Kingdom of Morocco signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to increase collaboration and cooperation in advancing concrete knowledge, standards, and best practices. The signing took place on October 26, 2025, during the ACI Concrete Convention – Fall 2025 in Baltimore, MD, USA. This MOU was signed by Frederick H. Grubbe, ACI Executive Vice President; Maria Juenger, ACI President; and Abdelfetah Sahibi, Secretary General, Ministry of Equipment and Water.

This agreement establishes a collaborative framework between ACI and the Ministry, focusing on improving concrete construction by making each organization's technical expertise available to the other through publications, meetings, conferences, digital content, committee membership, certification activities, and any other activities as mutually agreed. "We often hear that concrete is the world's most-used building material, which means that we need a global community to shape knowledge and practice. This MOU reflects our shared commitment to improving concrete construction through knowledge exchange and collaboration," Juenger stated.

ACI's Big 5 Global Sponsorship

ACI participated in Big 5 Global 2025, November 24-27, at the Dubai World Trade Centre, Dubai, UAE. As part of the event, ACI hosted the "Concrete Talks powered by ACI and the ACI UAE Chapter" conference sessions, a series of expert-led discussions exploring sustainable concrete design and durability, technology, and regional carbon neutrality efforts. Big 5 Global is one of the largest and most influential events for the construction and infrastructure industry in the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia. Each year, it brings together thousands of professionals, innovators, and decision-makers shaping the built environment. ACI's participation underscores its ongoing commitment to advancing concrete knowledge and supporting best practices worldwide.

Session topics included:

- Innovations in concrete materials and design;
- Low-carbon and sustainable concrete solutions;
- Advancements in construction technology and productivity;
- Quality, durability, and resilience in modern infrastructure;
- Challenges and innovations in sustainable construction; and
- Sustainable concrete design and durability.

Speakers included:

- ACI leadership: Ahmad Mhanna, ACI Director, Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region; Brian Wheeler,

ACI Managing Director, Communications and Marketing; and Khaled Nahlawi, ACI Distinguished Engineer;

- Engineers and industry professionals: Ahmad Khartabil, Technical Manager, Transgulf Readymix Concrete Co.; Ibrahim Tarek, Principal and Head of Structures, Dar Al-Handasah (Shair and Partners) S.A.L.; Mariusz Mlodawski, Country Director, Cemex UAE; Tarek Emara, QA/QC Director, China State Construction Engineering Corporation Middle East; Usama Jacir, Founder and CEO, Pulse IoT Technologies; and Ahmed Ezzat, Senior Vice President – Technical, DAMAC Properties; and
- Academic and research voices: Hilal El-Hassan, Professor, United Arab Emirates University; Mohammed Zaki, Associate Professor of Civil Engineering, American University in Dubai; and Youssef Elshennawy, Student, American University of Dubai.



Maria Juenger, ACI President, and Wafi Naima, Chargée de mission, Direction des Affaires Techniques et des Relations avec la Profession (DATRP), Ministry of Equipment and Water, Morocco, complete the MOU signing during the ACI Concrete Convention – Fall 2025



ACI Staff Khaled Nahlawi, Ahmad Mhanna, and Brian Wheeler at Big 5 Global

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ACI Joined Industry Experts at the 19th Middle East Corrosion Conference

William J. Gold, FACI, ACI Senior Engineer, led a technical workshop at the 19th Middle East Corrosion Conference (MECC), November 11-13, 2025, at Dhahran Expo in Dammam, Saudi Arabia. The session “Emergence and Deployment of Nonmetallic Materials in Building and Construction” took place on November 12 and provided a detailed overview of fiber-reinforced polymer (FRP) materials commonly used in construction applications. ACI CODE-440.11-22: Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete Reinforced with Glass Fiber-Reinforced Polymer (GFRP) Bars—Code and Commentary and SBC 311: Saudi Code for Structural Concrete Reinforced with Glass Fiber-Reinforced Polymer (GFRP Bars) were reviewed, and ACI CODE-440.13-24: Strengthening Structural Concrete with Fiber-Reinforced Polymer (FRP) Systems—Code Requirements and Commentary was introduced.

This biennial event was organized by the Materials Engineering Association, Association for Materials Protection and Performance (AMPP) Dhahran Saudi Arabia Chapter, and the Bahrain Society of Engineers. MECC has been a key platform for corrosion professionals since its launch in 1979. The event attracts delegates and industry leaders worldwide and features a comprehensive technical program, including workshops led by global experts and an exhibition showcasing the latest products, solutions, and advancements in the corrosion field.

ACI Contributes to Sustainability Conversations at COP30

ACI Past President Antonio Nanni attended COP30, November 10-21, 2025. ACI’s presence at this event reaffirms the Institute’s commitment to the strategic goal of advancing resiliency and sustainability. The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the largest global United Nations (UN) event for discussions and negotiations on climate change. The meeting is held annually, with the presidency rotating among the five UN-recognized regions. After time spent at the event, Nanni stated: “The path to a greener, more resilient world will be built on shared standards, global collaboration, and verified progress.”

Significant takeaways included:

- Collaboration among all stakeholders and engagement with local communities;
- Focus on residential construction with emphasis on the underprivileged and self-building;
- Sustainability and resilience cannot be separated—they are two sides of the same coin; and
- Policies and initiatives that keep people at the top of the agenda.

ACI Leadership Joins the Korea Concrete Institute for Its Fall Convention

Maria Juenger, ACI President, and Zhu Liu, ACI Director, Asia Pacific (APAC) Region, traveled to South Korea to join the Korea Concrete Institute (KCI) for its fall convention.

Prior to the convention, Juenger delivered a presentation to students in the Seoul National University Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering on November 4, 2025. Her presentation, “Opportunities for Blended Fly Ash and Natural Pozzolans,” was well-attended and received by the students.

Juenger also delivered a keynote presentation about ACI Code updates and strategic plans during the KCI Convention on November 6. Geonho Hong, KCI President, presented a gift of appreciation to Juenger.

KCI held student activities throughout the event, which Juenger attended. She was interviewed by students and appreciated the Student Photo Contest that showcased the visual aesthetics of concrete structures. Attendees actively engaged with one another on the night of the convention and



Maria Juenger (left) received a gift of appreciation from Geonho Hong, KCI President (right)



Maria Juenger in front of the winning submissions of the Concrete Structures Student Photo Contest

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participated in a raffle drawing, in which Juenger was invited to draw the winner.

KCI showed appreciation for ACI's attendance to its annual convention.

Singapore Chapter Celebrates 40th Anniversary with ACI Leadership

Zhu Liu joined the ACI Singapore Chapter to celebrate its 40th Anniversary. The 40th Anniversary seminar and gala took place on November 13, 2025, at the Furama City Centre, Singapore. Liu presented an overview about ACI and exchanged gifts with Nengfu Tao, ACI Singapore Chapter President. The Chapter invited past presidents of the Chapter to celebrate the anniversary.

Visit with ACI at World of Concrete

World of Concrete will take place January 19-22, 2026, in Las Vegas, NV, USA, at the Las Vegas Convention Center. The event is dedicated to the commercial concrete and construction industries and attracts approximately 55,000 attendees and 1500 exhibitors, and occupies more than 600,000 ft² (56,000 m²) of indoor and outdoor exhibit space. ACI will be exhibiting at booth C6382, Central Hall. ACI



Zhu Liu, ACI Director, APAC Region, with Nengfu Tao, ACI Singapore Chapter President (left), and JinPing Lu, ACI Singapore Chapter Immediate Past President (right)

staff will be available to discuss concrete resources, including certification, membership, and education. Staff will also be available to review ways to get involved with the Institute.



Publish an article in *Concrete International* and help further the mission of ACI with your technical expertise.

We're interested in case studies that will help our readers do their jobs. So if you've learned (even the hard way) how to design, construct, or repair a concrete structure better, faster, or more cost effectively, let us—and the ACI membership—know.

Submission guidelines are at: www.concrete.org/getinvolved/becomeanaciaauthor/writingforconmag.aspx.

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