

PREFACE

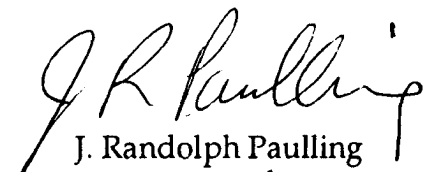
On behalf of the Department of Naval Architecture and Offshore Engineering of the University of California and the American Towing Tank Conference I take great pleasure in welcoming the 20th International Towing Tank Conference to San Francisco. The three years since the 19th ITTC in Madrid have passed quickly and this has been a busy period for the ITTC technical committees as well as for the conference organizers. During this time, great changes have occurred worldwide that will have significant impact on international business activities including shipping, shipbuilding and the development of marine resources. Affected, in turn, by these changes are many of the activities in which ITTC members are engaged.

Just as an increasingly competitive business climate resulting from the realignment of nations is increasing the demand for efficiency in marine systems, increased environmental awareness is demanding higher safety and reliability. But these are obviously not conflicting demands: an unsafe, unreliable ship is neither efficient nor economical. Some of the systems in which such demands are regularly encountered today include open top container ships, ecologically benign tankers, safe and economical high performance craft of a variety of configurations and offshore structures advancing into deeper and more hostile ocean regions. The solutions to the special problems in the design of these systems or ships frequently involve model testing and sophisticated hydrodynamic analysis of the type provided by our members. The ITTC is the most important international forum for the exchange of information on the latest research developments involved in the solutions to these problems.

The technical program of the 20th ITTC has been planned to provide an opportunity to address the relevant marine science and technology vital to meet these needs. The ongoing technical committee program structure provides the means of covering the most recent developments in the traditional areas of concern to our members and their clients. In addition, we have scheduled specialized workshop and poster sessions that are intended to highlight new and emerging problem areas and technologies.

As has been traditional with the ITTC, there is also a nontechnical component to the conference. We have planned a social program for members and guests that is intended to introduce some of the attractions for which Northern California is so well known. An excursion is scheduled to the city of Monterey which played an important role in California's early history, and the conference banquet will provide an opportunity to sample the ambience and some of the famous wines of the Napa Valley.

I am sure that you will find the 20th ITTC to be technically and professionally successful and I hope that your visit to San Francisco will be a memorable one.



J. Randolph Paulling
Chairman, Executive Committee, 20th ITTC