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Dr Karol Sikora is Assistant Professor at the University of Wollongong in Dubai (UOWD) and currently teaches a number of engineering subjects to undergraduate students. He obtained his PhD from the Glasgow Caledonian University, UK in collaboration with L'École Spéciale des Travaux Publics (Paris), France on the topic of 'The effect of superabsorbent polymers on the properties of cementitious mortars containing fly ash'. He has been module leader for several modules related to sustainable materials, design, and mechanics in the aforementioned Universities. He has been the principal supervisor of 1 PhD student, and co-supervised a few PhDs, and more than 10 MSc and BE projects since 2010. Prior to joining UOWD Dr Sikora worked as a Postdoctoral Researcher and Adjunct Lecturer at National University of Ireland, Galway on a €0.5 million project: 'Innovation in Irish Timber Usage', funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine. Later he became a Lecturer and Member of Academic Board at the Department of Civil Engineering, Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University (XJTLU), located in Suzhou, China. Dr Sikora has been an active member of 3 COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) Actions related to the timber engineering field. Moreover, he was a Member of the Timber Standards Consultative Committee in Ireland. He was also involved in The Institute for Sustainable Materials and Environment, and Innostrux Centre for Advanced Fibre Reinforced Concrete Technology both based in Suzhou, China. Dr Sikora's research experience is interdisciplinary and his research interests include areas of engineered-wood product, concrete technology, timber structures, sustainable development, and related areas, as well as project management. His work was published in more than 40 peer-reviewed journals and conference proceedings. Dr Sikora has presented at more than 20 international conferences and workshops and has been invited as speaker on several occasions. So far, he secured funding of over 0.5 million AED for research projects. Recent publications include:

- O'Ceallaigh, C.; Sikora, K.; Harte, A.M. The Influence of Panel Lay-Up on the Characteristic Bending and Rolling Shear Strength of CLT. *Buildings* 2018, 8, 114.
- O'Ceallaigh C, Sikora K. S., McPolin D., Harte A. M., An investigation of the viscoelastic creep behaviour of basalt fibre reinforced timber elements. *Construction & Building Materials*, 187 (10), pp. 220-230 (2018)
- Liu X., Yan, M., Galobardes I., Sikora K. S., Assessing the potential of functionally graded concrete using fibre reinforced and recycled aggregate concrete, *Construction and Building Materials*, 171 (5), pp. 793-801 (2018)
- O'Neill C., McPolin D., Tylor S. E., Harte A. M., O'Ceallaigh C., Sikora K. S., Timber moment connections using glued-in basalt FRP rods, *Construction and Building Materials*, 145 (8), pp. 226-235 (2017)
- Klemm A. J., Almeida F. C. R., Sikora K. S., Application of Superabsorbent polymers (SAP) in cementitious materials with blended cements, *Concrete Plant International*, 4, pp. 50-60 (2016)
- Sikora K. S., McPolin D., Harte A. M., Effects of the thickness of cross-laminated timber (CLT) panels made from Irish Sitka spruce on mechanical performance in bending and shear, *Construction and Building Materials*, 116 (7), pp. 141-150 (2016)
- Sikora K. S., McPolin D., Harte A. M., Shear strength and durability testing of adhesive bonds in cross-laminated timber, *The Journal of Adhesion*, Volume 92, Issue 7-9, (2016)