



**Ing. Ricardo Wilson Leal da Silva, PhD**

I joined the postdoc program back in June 2013 right after finishing my PhD. I was probably the first postdoc to join the program and my experience as a postdoc fellow in Czech Republic could not be better. I was given the time, space, and guidance necessary to work on my postdoc topic, while managing teaching consultancy activities with MSc. and PhD. students. The stimulus from academics such as Assoc. Prof. Vit Šmilauer, Assoc. Prof. Petr Stemberk and Prof. Zdenek Bittnar was very motivating from both personal and professional perspectives, and I am thankful I worked with them. The synergy in our activities led to several publications and software development during my postdoc.

From a project management perspective, there has been some minor upsets. In particular, forms related to business trips and purchase of equipment were available in Czech only; as a result, we constantly had to disturb our mentors with forms that could be easily filled out if they were in English. I strongly believe that an introductory course/guidelines during the first

postdoc week would help reduce delays when purchasing equipment and misunderstandings when submitting forms to the secretaries. Despite minor upsets, I must say my working environment was excellent and the scientific production that stems from my postdoc reflects how much I have enjoyed it.

**Overview of teaching and consultancy activities:**

The teaching and consultancy activities during my postdoc were a great experience. I had the chance to share my knowledge on topics I have studied during my PhD. and topics I was working on my postdoc. The knowledge exchange worked both ways since discussing known topics with students, and sometimes postdocs, gave me new insights and ideas to further develop my projects; let alone supporting other students in their projects. In addition, being exposed to students that are in need of knowledge helped improve my social and management skills. Therefore, I strongly believe that consultancy and teaching activities must be part of any postdoctoral program.



**Prof. Ing. Zdeněk Bittnar, DrSc.**

Wilson is extraordinarily talented and hardworking young man. Working with him was a pleasure. In the course of two years (June, 2013 to June, 2015) the postdoctoral fellow published eight articles on impacted journals and seven articles in conference proceedings. These publications, in most cases, related to use of supplementary cementitious materials such as fly ash, cement hydration models, and prediction of thermal behavior of mass concrete structures (in particular, the modeling approach is based on semi-adiabatic calorimetry tests, which present advantages over traditional isothermal calorimetry).

Publications were related to the topic of the project. Wilson also participated in our activities in the industrial center of excellence NANOCO. His collaboration with the team of the department was excellent. This is especially true of cooperation with Assoc. Prof. Vit Šmilauer, with whom he has majority of joint publications. Evidence of good work is the fact that he got a job at the prestigious DTI (Dänische Technological Institute), with whom we have long-term cooperation.