

**NEWS RELEASE
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**PEDESTRIAN AND EVACUATION DYNAMICS
CONFERENCE 2003**

- WORLD IN MOTION -

Over 90 of the world's leading experts in Pedestrian and Evacuation Dynamics will gather at the University of Greenwich in August to attend PED 2003. PED 2003 is the world's only conference dedicated to the computer simulation of Pedestrian and Evacuation Dynamics.

From shopping malls to transport terminals, aircraft to passenger ships, the infrastructure of society is having to cope with ever more intense and complex flows of people. Today, more than ever, **safety, efficiency and comfort** are issues that must be addressed by all designers.

The World Trade Centre disaster brought into tragic focus the need for well-designed evacuation systems in buildings. While in the marine industry, the new regulatory framework described in MSC Circular 1033 not only acknowledges the importance of ensuring that the built environment is safe, but also the central role that evacuation simulation can play in achieving this.

An additional need is to design spaces for efficiency - ensuring that maximum throughput can be achieved during normal operations - and comfort – that the resulting flows offer little opportunity for needless queuing or excessive congestion.

Prof Ed Galea, conference organiser and Director of the University of Greenwich Fire Safety Engineering Group said, 'Even three years ago it would have been considered a challenge to perform an evacuation analysis of the World Trade

Centre buildings'. The two 110 storey towers of the WTC complex each contained a maximum of 25,000 people. 'But with today's sophisticated modelling tools and high-end PCs, simulations of this type can be run faster than real time. Today's challenges are much more ambitious and involve simulating the movement and behaviour of over one million people in city-sized geometries'.

These are just some of the issues to be addressed at the Second International Conference in Pedestrian and Evacuation Dynamics to be held at the University of Greenwich from 20-22 August 2003.

PED 2003 will bring together over 90 researchers, design engineers and regulators from 12 countries to address these and other issues. As such the conference represents a unique opportunity for experts and beginners, model developers and model users, regulators and design engineers to gain insight into the rapidly changing world of computer simulation of evacuation and circulation dynamics.

Notes:

- Conference will be run from 20-22 August at Old Royal Naval College Greenwich campus of the University of Greenwich.
- Full programme can be found on <http://fseg.gre.ac.uk/ped2003>
- A key note speaker will be Dr William Grosshandler from NIST in the USA, discussing the government sponsored investigation into the WTC disaster.
- Conference opened address will be delivered by Dr David Peace, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
- Conference will be broadcast on the WWW.
- For more information or to arrange interviews contact Mrs Francoise Barkshire on 0208 331 8706.