



Dear Members,

This past year has been one of endings and beginnings, farewells and welcomes.

The Major Projects Association was founded in 1981 by a group of individuals – including many Fellows of Templeton College, Oxford – and we have been based in the same offices ever since, rubbing shoulders and exchanging ideas with Templeton academics and administrators on a regular basis. This year we said goodbye to the name but not the fabric of Templeton College. On 9th July Parliament approved the merger of Templeton with Green College to form Oxford's newest college, to be known as Green Templeton. We also said farewell to Sir John Templeton, the man who founded the College, who died just one day earlier.

Perhaps the most significant beginning this year was the appointment of Malcolm Noyce as our new Executive Director. Malcolm joined the Association in November after a period of three months without an Executive Director in post, during which time the staff team coped superbly, ensuring that our programme of events continued as planned.

We also welcomed two new members to our Board – Andrew McNaughton, Group Managing Director of Balfour Beatty plc and Alistair Godbold, Senior Programme Manager at NATS were appointed as Directors. This infusion was the consequence of Dr Dick Harris and Barry Taylor deciding that they wished to step down after many years

of distinguished service. As well as being Board Directors, both of them were members of the Programme Committee for many years and did a great deal to determine and organise the content of the seminars. It is due, in part, to their hard work that the quality of our events has been so high for so long.

There were also some changes to the Programme Committee this year. It expanded to enable us to welcome Mike Robertson of Risk Solutions, Howard Chick of John Laing plc and Dr David Hancock of the London Development Agency as new members. And the Board, at its July meeting, was delighted that Alistair Godbold accepted their invitation to take over the Chair

of the Programme Committee. Throughout the year we celebrated some 'firsts'. In February we held the first Member Representatives Event, which was an opportunity for members to talk to Directors and staff about their experience and hopes for the development of the Association. We had a great turn-out on the day (surely not just because the staff had had the brilliant idea of holding the event at the Emirates Stadium!) which provided an opportunity for Member Reps to meet one another and to let the staff know the issues that are really important.

We had a very robust debate about the use of the words *project* and *programme* and discussed specific issues such as the size of the Association, the balance of sectors and our links with similar bodies. We were very pleased to hear so many positive comments about the quality of our events and administration and listened carefully to the many new ideas that were suggested. Since the meeting, the staff and Directors have been taking forward many of the ideas to form part of a long-term development plan.

During 2007 – 2008 we held two launches in quick succession. In the June newsletter we 'launched' our new corporate identity which is now incorporated into this document. Those of you who have ever undergone a 'brand redevelopment' or 'identity change' will understand that this process took many long months. However, we are very pleased with the result which we think reflects a bright and up-to-date Association.

In July we launched the Major Project Simulator which was developed in conjunction with Prendo Ltd. This simulator is one of the most significant single projects that the Association has undertaken in recent years. The project has benefited from the expert input of Dr Martin Barnes (our previous Executive Director) as well as many people from member organisations who took part in a variety of trials and who gave detailed feedback to enable us to develop a really top-class piece of software. My thanks go to all those who took part in this process. You can read more about the simulator on page one of this publication.

On top of all of this activity we continued to offer our members a full programme of seminars, evening meetings, site visits and dinners as well as seminar reports and newsletters. This is something that could not be achieved without the hard work of our staff behind the scenes – not only those who you see at events but also the support of Ruth Feeney our Accountant, Geoff and Jan Higgs, Dick and Jo Makin who produce our excellent seminar reports, and Anita Maunsell who has been writing and editing our newsletter and this publication for the last two years.

R. Walmsley.

Sir Robert Walmsley KCB
Chairman
Major Projects Association