

Professor Hongfei Zheng

Beijing Institute of Technology, china
Toward future solar desalination technology



Hongfei Zheng has researched Renewable Energy and Energy Efficient Systems for 35 years & has wide experience in solar energy applications including hot water, desalination, air conditioning, solar concentration and daylighting. He began as a lecturer at Guangxi University in 1980s and started his PhD in Solar Desalination Technology at the University of Science and Technology of China in 1996. On completion in 1999, he worked in Xian Jiaotong University as a Postdoctoral Researcher and Associate Professor, independently completing a research project funded by the Postdoctoral Management Committee of China. Since 2002, Prof. Zheng has worked at Beijing Institute of Technology focusing mainly on: 1) solar desalination, 2) solar concentration and 3) heat and mass transfer. He has taught Thermodynamics, Solar energy, Advanced Thermodynamics and Heat transfer for 20 years and is able to teach in English. Prof. Zheng has published more than 250 refereed papers (more than 70 papers published in international Journals) and 9 monographs & has obtained 35 patents.

He worked at the University of Nottingham as a Visiting Professor from March 2012 to September 2013 where he completed the European Commission for a Marie Curie Fellowship grant (PIIF-GA-2010-275038). He worked at the Denmark Technology of University (DTU) in Denmark as a Visiting Professor in 2015 and at California University in Merced in USA in 2017. He has supervised 18 PhD students and is the principal investigator for 7 important research projects respectively funded by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (No. 50576004, 51076016, U1261119 and 51576017, 51976013) and National "863" Hi-Tech Development Program of China (No. 2007AA05Z433, 2013AA102407-2). He has completed several international cooperation projects with UK (ICUK) and Denmark (No. 2010DFA62530) and also developed several solar systems including solar concentrators and solar desalination systems for sale in the Chinese market.

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Professor Michele Bottarelli

University of Ferrara, Italy
Advances in very shallow ground heat exchangers



Michele Bottarelli holds a Masters degree in Hydraulic Engineering from the University of Bologna & is Associate Professor of Applied Physics at the Department of Architecture of the University of Ferrara (UNIFE). He has achieved the National Scientific Qualification in the Italian higher education system to function as Full Professor in the academic field of Thermal Sciences, Energy Technology, Building Physics and Nuclear Engineering. He is a lecturer in thermodynamics, heat transfer and acoustics at the School of Architecture, and in renewable energy and sustainable engineering at the School of Industrial Design.

As founder and leader of the Laboratory to Advance in Ground heat exchange (LAG), he coordinates a team of researchers carrying out lab and field studies on underground thermal energy storage strategies, phase change materials, building physics, porous media, soil remediation, and more broadly on heat and mass transfer phenomena, achieving some patents. LAG is part of the TekneHub laboratory, one of 4 centres of the Techno-pole of UNIFE, within the European Building Platform and part of the High Technology Network of the Emilia Romagna region (HTN-RE). He has completed 4 European projects, two as leader of the UNIFE partnership (IDEAS, HEROTILE), and also 2 EFDR projects (HEGOS, CLIWAX), one as coordinator. He will be leader of the UNIFE partnership of a new Horizon EU project (ECHO) on the usage of thermochemical materials for thermal energy storage. He is a guest editor and member of the scientific board of several international journals, conferences and scientific societies. Former member of the UNIFE Academic Senate, he currently serves on the Academic Research Council, on several Academic commissions of the Department of Architecture, and on the Academic Board of the Doctorate School. Before his academic carrier, he was a freelance engineer in nationally relevant projects for Italian authorities and companies.

Wednesday
1st February 2023
9am (GMT) | in Teams