Preface

The *Seismic Analysis and Design of Special Bridges* workshop series is based on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between MCEER, University at Buffalo, State University of New York, Buffalo, New York and the State Key Laboratory for Disaster Reduction in Civil Engineering (SLDRCE), Tongji University, Shanghai, China. The MOU was signed by Professor George C. Lee of MCEER and Professor Lichu Fan of SLDRCE on May 26, 2001, and resulted from the PRC-US earthquake engineering and earthquake disaster mitigation collaboration project. Four international workshops have been carried out in China and the U.S. between 2002 - 2005. In the U.S., the workshop series is sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration and in China, it is sponsored by the Chinese National Natural Science Foundation and other agencies.

The purpose of these workshops is to share technical information and construction experience in the seismic design and performance of “special” highway bridges. For the purpose of these meetings, “special” bridges include major long span bridges as well as those with small to moderate spans with complex geometries or located on particularly hazardous sites. The long-term objective is to develop a knowledge base, from which guidelines for these unique structures can be developed.

In 2005, the planning groups from both sides met in Washington D.C. and discussed strategies to expand cooperation to include other aspects of bridge engineering in addition to earthquake engineering. As a result, the fourth workshop in the series, originally scheduled to take place in the US in 2005, was postponed to June 19-21, 2006 and was held in Chongqing China, the “City of Bridges.” This workshop was designed to exchange state-of-the-art information on highway bridge technologies and to plan and develop future cooperative research projects between the United States and the People’s Republic of China. A total of 39 participants, 16 from the U.S. and 23 from China, attended this workshop. These proceedings contain 32 papers covering a wide range of research fields.

Previous workshops in the series were held October 21-22, 2004 in Shanghai, China; December 3-5, 2003 in Buffalo, New York; and October 8-10, 2002 in Shanghai, China.