

CIB in Milan November 1999

Autumn 1999 Meetings of

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- [61st Meeting of the Programme Committee](#)
- [A Meeting with Italian Contractors and Researchers, arranged by ICITE](#)

3rd Meeting of the Officers' Committee

Date: 7th November 1999

Chair: Dr. J.R. Duncan, CIB President, BRANZ - Building Research Association of New Zealand

Dr. V. Esposti and Dr. P. Cardillo and colleagues at Italian Full Member Organisation ICITE - The Central Institute for Building Industrialisation and Technology were the Hosts for the Autumn 1999 Meetings of the CIB Officers' Committee and the CIB Programme Committee.

And they were outstanding hosts. The excellent arrangements and generous hospitality created exactly the right sort of atmosphere for those concerned to tackle the heavy agendas confronting them.

Policy Advisers

As has been pointed out earlier, the Officers' Committee may be regarded as a policy advisory organ, the scope of whose discussions extends over virtually all the major strategic issues currently occupying CIB. An informed input to these discussions is ensured since the Chairman of both the Programme and Administrative Committees are Members.

There was a full complement of Officers present in Milan for the 3rd Meeting and a summary of the principal items on the Agenda is given below.

The Officers noted that two co-options had been made to the CIB Board. These were Prof. David Yankelevsky, Director of the National Building Research Institute at Technion, Haifa, Israel and Mr. Frits J.M. Scheublin, Director of the Design, Development and Research Department in the Housing, General Building and Real Estate Division of Hollandsche Beton Group nv.

This is the largest Dutch Contractor and its operates worldwide with a Head Office in Rijswijk, The Netherlands.

Both appointments have already been announced in CIB INFORMATION.

The New Fee System

Next, the Officers turned their attention to an on-going matter whose implications are indeed far-reaching and that is the review of the Membership Fee System.

It should not be forgotten that in most cases the role of the Officers' Committee is to recommend rather than to decide, (an exception is the award of the Gy. Sebestyén Young Researcher's Fellowship.)

Key elements to be considered in devising a new fee system are the number of membership categories

and the fee levels for each, the justification for concessions in specific cases and the need to demonstrate that the fees charged actually do represent value for money. These and other issues received a full airing at the meeting and the consensus was that definitive proposals for submission to the Triennial General Assembly in 2001 are coming somewhat nearer.

The Gy. Sebestyén Fellowship 2000

One matter which is the sole prerogative of the Officers is the award of the annual Gyula Sebestyén Young Researcher's Fellowship.

The Officers had before them eight applications for the 6th Fellowship which will be taken up in the Year 2000.

The decision was to confer it on Mr. Miles Keeping, Oxford Centre for Real Estate Management, Oxford Brookes University, United Kingdom.

(More details on the award can be found [here](#).)

The Pro-Active Approach

Naturally the Pro-Active Approach in its many aspects featured prominently and the Officers emphasised that if CIB resources were to be committed, then the prospect of a Return on Investment - while not the sole factor - should at best be kept in mind in the decision making process. In fact the longer-term objective should be to come up with projects which industry would recognise as worth supporting with its own resources.

CIB members had to be stimulated to seek meaningful involvement in implementing the Pro-Active Approach.

Of a more mundane nature, but nonetheless necessary, was the customary review of Staffing Matters at the General Secretariat.

CIB and Developing Countries

The Officers also looked at the role of CIB vis-à-vis Developing Countries (which is one of the focal points of the contents of this Issue). They recognised that decisions on applications for assistance should be taken within a framework of carefully thought out principles and the procedure which is currently operated will be refined. The limited resources of the Developing Countries Fund make it even more important that they should be utilised to optimum effect.

Consideration of the analysis of the first set of responses to the CIB Membership Satisfaction Survey, thoughts on whether and if so how CIB Student Chapters should be brought within the membership structure and ideas on how to bump up the very low attendance at the now mandatory Annual General Assemblies completed a busy meeting for the Officers concerned.

It is a tribute to the Chairman and those present that the scheduled Agenda was in fact completed.



61st Meeting of the Programme Committee

Date: 8th November 1999

Chair: Mr. L.R. Little, CSIRO - Division of Building Construction & Engineering, Australia

As was the case with its first meeting this year, the Programme Committee could only be allocated a single day for its Meeting despite the formidable agenda which confronted it. Anyway once again it

succeeded in getting through all that it was scheduled to do.

Review of TGs and WCs

Firstly it carried forward the results of earlier discussions on a system to provide regular and meaningful information on the status of each Task Group and Working Commission.

Next it undertook its customary review of existing Task Groups and Working Commissions. Certain important decisions were taken as follows:

- To transform TG26 into Working Commission W104 - Open Building Implementation
- It approved the appointment of Prof. Ulpu Tiuri, Department of Architecture, Helsinki University of Technology, Finland as the new Joint Coordinator
This was in succession to Karel Dekker who was warmly thanked for his past services

We introduce Ms. Tiuri [here](#).

Two other Joint Coordinators were appointed. These were:

- For TG28 - Dissemination of Indoor Air Science: Mr. Esko Kukkonen, Helsinki University of Technology, Finland.
- For TG37 - Performance Based Building Regulatory Systems: Ms. Beth Tubbs, International Conference of Building Officials.

Gaute Flatheim's services to TG28 were gratefully recorded.

More about the Joint Coordinators and their observations on future work is to be found [here](#).

And a new Task Group was established.

- TG41 - Benchmarking Construction Performance
with as its Coordinator: Dr. V. Chrysostomou, Director, Centre for Performance Approval in Construction, BRE, UK

Further details on TG41 and an invitation to Members to nominate representatives are to be found [here](#).

Another Task Group will come into being in the near future. This will be a joint CIB-ISIAQ Task Group on Performance Criteria of Buildings for Health and Comfort and the Programme Committee gave the go-ahead to the Secretary General and Dr. S. Barakat to continue to with the necessary preparatory action.

CIB Co-Sponsorship

It is the Programme Committee which takes decisions on CIB co-sponsorship of events and, as well as ratifying Chairman Larry Little's granting of co-sponsorship on its behalf to three events, a further seven were approved.

All of these are listed in the Section featuring News on Forthcoming Meetings and the Issue of co-sponsorship.

The Pro-Active Approach

As with the meeting of the Officers' Committee, the Pro-Active Approach and its two current CIB Priority Themes occupied a central position on the Agenda.

Sustainable Construction - the first Priority Theme - is an important component in the Pro-Active

Approach and the Programme Committee expressed its satisfaction with the long awaited [CIB Publication \(237\) - Agenda 21](#) on Sustainable Construction. The pivotal work of Luc Bourdeau of CSTB in this project was highlighted and as the list of acknowledgements shows, several other CIB experts had made material contributions to its realisation.

But it was never the intention to end there and the Programme Committee turned its attention to formulating a policy for suitable follow-up action. Broad lines were suggested and their feasibility is being explored further.

As concerns the Pro-Active Approach in general a small Working Group was set up to develop statements of strategy and policy and to produce relevant documentation in connection with its implementation.

As concerns the second Priority Theme in the context of the Pro-Active Approach, Performance Based Building, it authorised the necessary steps to be taken to commence work in earnest on the Compendium of Validated Models of Building Performance and if possible to obtain new resources and support from industry and from CIB members. This Task had earlier been accorded top priority.

It was acknowledged that the appropriate degree of coordination of all CIB Activities related to Performance Based Building was a requirement if the agreed tasks were to be executed in an efficient way.

Technology Watch

Readers of INFORMATION will know that CIB has major projects underway in the field of Technology Watch and the Programme Committee took stock of the progress of each. Among them is the planned Technology Watch Conference in Brussels next April and details of this can be found [here](#).

Strategic Aspects

Certain defined aspects of strategy have been identified earlier as falling within the remit of the Programme Committee. A selection of these received special scrutiny at the meeting.

One was to obtain a consensus on a series of measures to monitor progress in achieving CIB's strategic directions. In his paper on the subject the Chairman referred to these as Key Performance Indicators and he put forward a list of possible measures for consideration. These were discussed and refined.

Another concerned the relationship between CIB and Industry and discussions were started by a paper from Prof. Davidson in which he analysed the attitudes and stance taken towards research by the building industry. In his paper he came up with a series of recommendations to CIB as concerns a possible approach aimed at making it a more attractive proposition for industry.

The concept of CIB Encouraged Journals was subject to its customary review and after the meeting an addition to the list of those to whom this status has been granted was made with the W078 Journal ITcon.

This abridged report describes only the salient points that were addressed.

A host of others were considered also and if this can be interpreted as a sign of the healthy state of CIB's scientific and technical activities, the Programme Committee will not complain.



Date: 9th November 1999

Chair: Dr. V. Esposti, Director, ICITE - Central Institute for Building Industrialisation and Technology

It is not only the CIB entities concerned who are thrown into relief at these series of meetings but the CIB Member Institute acting as Host follows the practice of acquainting its own circle with what CIB has to offer.

Many of them will know CIB already through their participation in Task Groups or Working Commissions. Frequently the Member provides one or more Coordinators and the opportunity for face to face discussions with members of the Programme Committee on matters of mutual interest can be valuable.

For others CIB is something of an unknown quantity.

So the Host Institute may decide to organise a national briefing meeting to bridge this gap. This is exactly what Dr. V. Esposti, Director of ICITE did on 9th November 1999 when he assembled some 50 Italian Contractors, Researchers and other experts for a series of presentations by key CIB figures on topics in CIB which impact on a wider circle.

Dr. Esposti himself opened the meeting in ICITE's main premises in Milan. He then handed over to CIB President John Duncan who introduced the Pro-Active Approach with a description of its general objectives and principles.

The wider scientific scene in CIB was then set by Secretary General Wim Bakens who discussed the network of Task Groups and Commissions that operate within CIB and presented current and planned developments as regards CIB's Home Page.

Immediate Past President of CIB, Prof. Chr. Sjöström led the second session of the Meeting which was given over to CIB's Agenda 21 on Sustainable Construction (see the Reports above). Each delegate received a copy of Publication 237 which as Christer Sjöström pointed out was in no way intended to be the final output on the topic.

Still with the Pro-Active Approach, the third Session focussed on CIB's programme in relation to Performance Based Building Codes and Standards. John Duncan was again the Speaker and there was time to mention the CIB Triennial Congress in 2001.

The last hour was thrown open to the floor and, as was to be expected, some interesting contributions resulted including suggestions for new activities in CIB. Two Italian Coordinators Prof. Sergio Croce (W086) and Prof. Angelo Lucchini (W094) were able to draw on their close involvement in CIB affairs with highly useful inputs.

This meeting concluded what had been a brief but extremely busy stay in Milan and all who had taken part were full of praise for Dr. Esposti, Dr. Paolo Cardillo and colleagues for the outstanding facilities and hospitality which had been provided.

In such a complex set-up as CIB it cannot be expected that every single item on an agenda can be resolved in the space of a single meeting but the overall verdict was that the Milan Meetings were constructive and fruitful and served to take CIB a stage further along the road to its defined goals.

C.E. Pollington



The CIB Meetings in Milan



In the Chair at the meeting of the Officers' Committee on 7th November 1999 was CIB President John Duncan flanked on the left by Secretary General Wim Bakens and on the right by Immediate Past President Christer Sjöström.

Also present from left to right were PC Chairman Larry Little, Sherif Barakat attending by invitation and Treasurer Erkki Leppävuori.



The next day 8th November 1999 it was the turn of the Programme Committee.

The PC Chairman Larry Little presided and above he is seen explaining some of the finer implications of the Pro-Active Approach.



As usual the break for lunch gave the opportunity for informal discussion of points raised during the morning. At least three separate exchanges are captured above. From left to right Chris Pollington and Peter Lansley, Larry Little and John Duncan and Host Valter Esposti in earnest conversation with Wim Bakens.

The Meeting with Italian Contractors and Researchers on 8th November allowed CIB to brief them on its latest programme of activities as the accompanying reports shows. Presentations on the CIB side included those by the President, Larry Little and Christer Sjöström.



But such national meetings derive their success from the face to face encounters with representatives from both camps and Valter Esposti had succeeded in attracting a good mix of current Italian Coordinators and others who already had extensive knowledge of CIB affairs and those to whom CIB was virtually unknown. Meaningful contacts were soon established as the above Group picture indicates.



Occasionally when items of complexity come under the microscope, language can give rise to difficulties. PC Member Colin Davidson demonstrated his versatility by stepping into the breach on occasion as an interpreter. Dr. Esposti showed his appreciation with a warm

handshake at the end of the meeting.



The Host Organisation



ICITE, the Central Institute for Building Industrialisation and Technology, was established in 1962 by the National Research Council (CNR). Its purpose is to develop permanent research activities in the building field, with particular reference to production technologies and the industrialisation of the building process.

