

The CIB Developing Countries Fund

A focus of attention in this Issue of INFORMATION is CIB and Developing Countries and different aspects are addressed. This makes it timely to remind CIB Members in developing countries and of course Coordinators of CIB Task Groups and Working Commissions of the existence of the CIB Developing Countries Fund (DCF).

Over recent years disappointingly few applications have been received which may in large part stem from the fact that members are simply unaware of this potential source of assistance.

So now for some guidelines on the Who's and What's.

What Is The Objective?

The DCF was established several years ago originally to assist CIB Members in developing countries to take part in CIB related activities, which otherwise they would be unable to do given the economic constraints.

The present situation is that help may be given to individuals or equally it may be applied to the realisation of collective efforts, as for example a Commission Project judged to be of obvious relevance to developing countries.

Who Is Eligible?

An individual applicant is eligible for consideration if he or she belongs to a CIB Member Institute of whatever type which is situated in a country whose Gross National Product per capita is less than One Thousand American Dollars. (The objective source of reference is the most recent edition of the World Bank Atlas.) The CIB Member must be in good standing with payment of its membership fees.

A CIB Individual Member may also apply.

For What Is The Help Intended?

Assistance is most commonly given to enable the recipient to take an active part in a CIB Task Group or Commission Meeting, Open Symposium or Workshop, the Triennial World Building Congress, the Research Managers' Meeting, the Young Researcher's Workshop etc.

Moreover, in the past it has (exceptionally) been applied to cover the costs of CIB Publications where these were considered to be useful and relevant.

Are There Any Other Requirements?

As stated above, the DCF is intended to assist the recipient to play an active role in the event and applications should therefore be supported by a statement from the Coordinator of the meeting concerned that he or she will make a contribution to the meeting through presenting a paper of interest and relevance to the other participants. Moreover, the Coordinator should confirm that participation will be of professional benefit to the recipient.

Applications for assistance should also be endorsed by the Director of the Institute from which the application is made.

What Is The Order Of Magnitude Involved?

The grant is intended to cover travel and subsistence costs incurred in participation but the limited resources available mean that in most cases the total expenditure is not covered. This means that there is usually a residual amount of expenditure for which the recipient is responsible.

In addition, as a guideline, the amount of the grant will not normally exceed the amount of the recipient's annual CIB membership fee.

The grant is made after the event has taken place.

Are There Any Other Conditions?

To ensure as equitable a distribution as possible as a CIB member institute may not apply for assistance for more than one staff member for the same event.

Moreover the recipient of a grant from the DCF would not normally be eligible for another grant until a suitable period has elapsed.

The recipient is expected to produce a brief report within a reasonable time after the event.

Assistance With Projects

Increased utilisation of the DCF to as a means to realise Commission projects can be expected in the future, because clearly the potential benefit is on a larger scale than in the case of individuals. It should be emphasised that limitations are not placed on the scope of such projects. An example is the recent decision to assist the proposed Task Group 29 International Journal on Construction and Developing Countries.

In deciding whether to assist a Commission project, the two factors that are uppermost are the feasibility of the project and its direct relevance to the needs of developing countries.

The considerations mentioned above relating to the amount of a grant to an individual recipient do not apply to Commission projects where each application is treated on a case by case basis. However, the practice is that any allocation that may be made will be intended to cover expenses incurred in the project rather than payments to persons involved.

What Is The Procedure To Apply?

CIB Members who wish to be considered for a grant from the DCF should communicate with the General Secretariat as long in advance as possible specifying the event(s) for which assistance is required.

It would be helpful, if the letters of support mentioned above accompanied the application although naturally the General Secretariat is ready to make the necessary contacts if required.

For Commission projects a rather more detailed application would be required and this will call for prior consultations between the Coordinator(s) and other key figures involved and the CIB General Secretariat.

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