

TG35 - Innovation Systems in Construction

The Erasmus University, Rotterdam, Netherlands was the venue for the 4th Meeting of the TG35 Steering Committee on 3rd and 4th April 2000 when Coordinator Dr. André Manseau welcomed 11 members and 2 guests, (all in all 8 countries had participants).

As usual André had detailed Minutes ready promptly from which the following summary is extracted.

Discussion on Findings and Key Conclusions

Opening the Meeting, André Manseau welcomed Shin Okamoto and Fernando Branco who, for the first time, were able to attend the meeting in person (rather than through teleconferencing); as well as special guests from the host country, Marieke Wiszniewski and Lenneke van der Weegen.

CIB Past President George Seaden underlined the impressive work accomplished by the Group to date, and the opportunity it offered to influence construction policy agendas.

Discussions focused on reviewing national as well as synthesis papers and consensus was reached on a series of amendments or revisions to be implemented.

National Papers

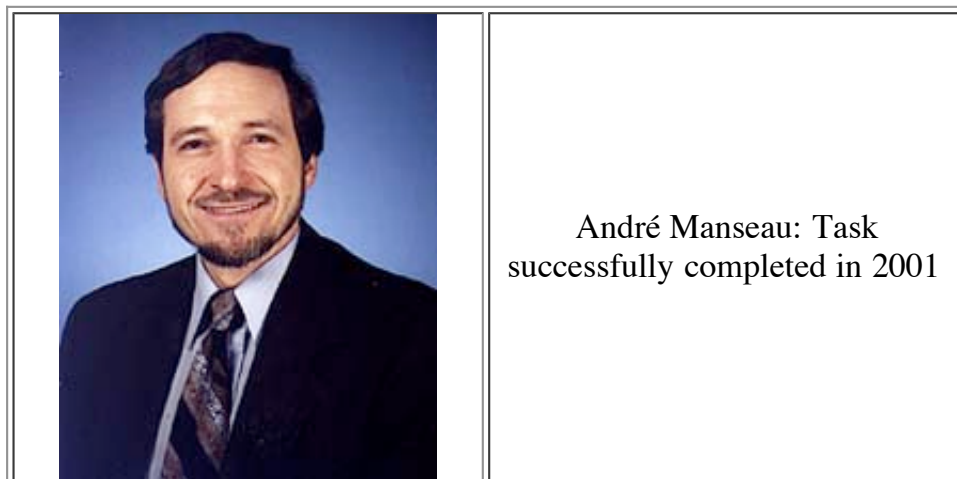
It was agreed that each author will take into consideration the framework which had been developed at the Copenhagen Meeting and which is reproduced below:

Framework for presenting major public programs available to the Construction sector to support innovation.

Innovation Stage	Name	Resources to Construction	Objectives	Means	Contribution to Innovation
Programs to support R&D
Programs to support advanced practices and experimentation
Programs to support performance and quality improve-ment
Programs to support taking up of systems and procedures

Synthesis Paper

- A description of the framework used in the presentation of major public programs in each of the national papers will be expanded (on the above model).
- The importance of "national" systems of innovation in construction will be emphasized.
- Leading promising trends to be provided by each national paper will be highlighted. Related texts will also be revised in order to stress promising new governmental roles and the issues to be addressed: How to raise firm awareness and capability to innovate? How to promote quality and innovation to users and clients of construction? How to effectively achieve the latter within limited resources? Are compliant actions needed (compliant consumer protection insurance or regulated procurement methods)?
- Conclusions will be added to the paper.



Administrative Meeting

An Administrative Meeting was held on the morning of 4th April.

The Book

- Consensus was reached on the title of the Group's upcoming book: Innovation in Construction - An International Review of Public Policies.
- The dissemination plan for the Book will include the use of the "Moniteur", CIB Information Bulletin and Web site, and upcoming CIB events (Congress in April 2001, and a TG35 Conference in Ottawa, June 2001).

Future Meetings and Conferences

The next annual general meeting of TG35 will be held in Reading, United Kingdom on 14th and 15th September 2000, in conjunction with the CIB W055 and W065 Annual Meeting. André Manseau sets out the proposed agenda for a half-a-day meeting [here](#).

Phase II - Knowledge Brokers

André Manseau stated that his commitment as TG35 Coordinator is to be completed in 2001, as was envisaged when the TG was created in 1998. He also mentioned that, due to other professional duties, he would be unable to accept a renewal or an extension of his mandate.

A preliminary discussion on a second phase of TG35 work has been initiated. Participants agreed on the

importance of "Knowledge Brokers" to stimulate innovation in construction. These agents act as negotiators between firms or throughout the institutional network. Their role is particularly important in construction due to the numerous and fragmented sets of actors, and to the complexity of innovation processes in this sector.

Knowledge brokers do exist beyond a single project, but they usually act on a project by project basis. An array of knowledge brokers seems to be required to reach various sub-sectors and to ensure adequacy to various kinds of projects. Their roles can be at either of two levels: providing a neutral space between parties (an intermediary) and representing a consensus, a validation or the recommended practice.

It is intended that this discussion will be carried forward at the next TG35 Meeting in Reading, UK and account will need to be taken of related work and scopes of other CIB Groups.

André Manseau

