

TG38 - Urban Sustainability

One of the highlights at the Millennium Conference on Cities and Sustainability: Sustaining Our Cultural Heritage held in Sri Lanka from 21st to 25th February 2000 was to have been a TG38 Workshop.

Reviewing the Conference itself, one of the participants noted that the relatively small number of delegates, long bus journeys and a sparkling social programme facilitated lively debate on what turned out to be some very provocative papers. One of the key points that emerged was that there is a need to encourage a global culture of sustainable development based on a foundation of individual responsibility if, there is to be any hope of making our cities more sustainable.

As it turned out, the Workshop had to be cancelled because there were very few members of TG38 present at the Conference. Instead, the plenary decided to use the conference and its proceedings to identify and prioritise a research agenda for Urban Sustainability. This agenda will then be promoted through TG38. A paper to this effect is currently being prepared in co-operation with Salford University and a mailing list has been set up by Salford to facilitate the discussion.

The conference organisers did provide an opportunity to present TG38 and its work programme to the conference plenary, and interested delegates were invited to an informal information session on TG38. In total 17 delegates attended this session and indicated their interest in becoming involved in the work of TG38. Several have since submitted papers for the next significant TG38 event - the conference on Strategies for a Sustainable Built Environment to be held in Pretoria in August. Details of this event are available on <http://buildnet.csir.co.za/SSBE>.