

## W089 - Building Research and Education

The Georgia Institute of Technology is the [Profiled Full Member](#) in this Issue of CIB Information.

Its interface with CIB is mentioned on more than one occasion and especially worthy of note was its hosting of the latest in the series of Building Education and Research - BEAR Conferences in May.

Professor Weilin P. Chang reports on the outcome of the Conference which fully lived up to the high standards of the earlier ones.

### Innovations in Building Education and Training

By Professor Weilin P. Chang

The CIB W089 International Conference Multidisciplinary Collaboration in Building Education and Research - BEAR 2000 was held in Atlanta, Georgia, USA from 16th to 18th May 2000. The Conference was hosted jointly by Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia and Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina. Forty individuals representing ten countries took part in the Conference.

Working Commission W089 presents a central focal point within CIB for the exchange of information between research and education institutions of the building professionals with the emphasis on strengthening educational and research programmes at the universities and on training researchers, teachers and practising professionals. The Commission also provides an effective forum for the international community of building educators concerned with research training and applications. The primary objectives of the Commission are:

- To facilitate an exchange between professional educational and building research institutions
- To exchange information between building educators on the training of future building researchers
- To exchange information between educators on the incorporation of current building research in the training of future building professionals
- Special attention will be paid to construction and planning programmes of developing countries

The Conference was opened with a warm address of welcome from Dr. Thomas D. Galloway, Dean, College of Architecture of Georgia Institute of Technology and Dr. Roger W. Liska, Associate Dean, College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities of Clemson University.

The BEAR 2000 Conferences provides a forum to debate and discuss changing interdisciplinary relationships within building education and research. Many of those relationships have emerged as a result of the increased inter-professional collaboration in design and building practice. Others have been necessitated by the significant infusion of advanced technology and telecommunications in the design and building industry. And yet others have been required in order to solve critical research questions which span a number of fields engaged in the design and construction of built environments throughout the world.

In Atlanta, twenty-five papers were presented covering a variety of topics including cooperation between academia and the design and building disciplines, plans and strategies for changing design and building industry relationships in education and research in the future, building and construction education and advanced technology applications, new course and research initiatives and recent advances in teaching technology. E-base teaching has been introduced in building education and training and has enjoyed success.

## **Student Learning and Partnering**

Schools now place more emphasis on student learning experience than the traditional teacher based teaching programme. Problem based learning is fast becoming the norm. Using multi-disciplinary student project competition to teach team building and cross-disciplinary collaboration as in the real world has become an essential part of today's building education. Partnering between university and industry, workplace centred education and training are forming the core of design and building education. Development and reforms of building education in Thailand and China have been addressed. One of the highlights of the Atlanta Conference was the opportunity for all attendees to participate in all the paper presentations.

## **Role of Technology**

Besides the twenty-five paper presentations, there were keynote addresses. The first was by Mr. Bob Silverman, CEO, The Winter Group of Companies, Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. Silverman challenged the attendees to become aware of the rapidly changing technologies in the design and building professions and to continue to conduct research in technology improvements and integrate it into their classes. The second address was given by Mr. Larry Lord, Lord, Aeck & Sargent, Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. Lord reviewed how his design firm is adopting current technologies to improve the design and construction processes.

Dr. Weilin P. Chang, Dean of Faculty of Built Environment and Engineering at Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia presented Design Education in the Twenty-First Century. He proposed a holistic education pattern and put emphasis on social environmental and energy sustainability, ageing population, problem solving, information technology, multi-disciplinary partnership and community. He also proposed some innovative post graduate and continuing education design programmes in response to the professional and community needs.

The final keynote address was delivered by Dr. Wim Bakens, Secretary General of CIB, who reviewed the various activities of CIB and encouraged those who are not now members to join. Dr. Bakens was available during the entire conference to answer questions and provide guidance to the conference attendees.

## **Conference Proceedings**

Proceedings for the BEAR 2000 Conference had been prepared and made available to all who attended. It is a good collection of innovative and successful building education and training experience. Copies of these Proceedings are available for purchase. The cost is US \$ 60 per copy. To order one or more copies, please make a cheque payable to Georgia Institute of Technology - College of Architecture and mail it to Ms. Carol Whitescarver, Director of Continuing Education, College of Architecture, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA 30332-0155, USA.

## **W089 Commission Meeting**

W089 also took the opportunity to hold a Commission Meeting during the BEAR 2000 Conference.

Again we are indebted to Professor Weilin Chang for sending us a summary of this brief but important meeting.

The Commission Meeting took place during lunchtime on Tuesday 16 May at Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia, USA. There were approximately 40 attendees.

Professor Weilin P. Chang, Dean of the Faculty of Built Environment and Engineering at Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia, the Coordinator of W089 took the Chair at the meeting.

He briefly welcomed the participants and explained the history and the objectives of W089 - Building Research and Education. He recalled that he had taken over the Joint Coordinatorship from Professor Peter Lansley of Reading University, UK in 1993 together with Mr. Geoff Carter from Nottingham Trent University, also in the UK. In 1996 Dr. Robert Carter of the University of Florida, USA and Professor David Scott of Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong were appointed as Regional Coordinators. In the intervening years, W089 had organised several successful international conferences around the world. Venues and dates had been 1995 in Orlando, USA; 1996 in Beijing, China; 1998 in Brisbane, Australia and 2000 in Atlanta, USA. The Commission was now looking to organise an international conference with Chongqing University in 2001 in China. Another international conference was planned to be held in Europe in 2002.

At the meeting, Professor Chang thanked everyone for their loyal support in the past. He stated that the time had come for him to relinquish his Joint Coordinatorship. The Membership warmly thanked him for his outstanding services. There was unanimous agreement to propose to the CIB Programme Committee that Professor Anthony Sidwell, Head of School of Construction Management and Property, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia should succeed him as Joint Coordinator. (This proposal was subsequently approved by the CIB Programme Committee at its meeting in Hangzhou on 30 May 2000.)

The participants further agreed that the series of BEAR conferences fully justified continuation and should be held in different countries around the world in the future. It was recognised that these Conferences brought in their wake many beneficial innovations in teaching and learning and connections between research and education. Their legacy was a perceptible enhancement of building education and research.

Notes Weilin: CIB W089 does indeed provide a special forum for educators in building disciplines to get together to exchange experiences and ideas.



## AT BEAR 2000



Noel Longman (New Zealand) and Rod Gameson (Australia)



Weilin Chang (Australia)



Jialin Zhu (China) and Roger Liska (USA)



Tony Sidwell (Australia) and Darlene Septelka (USA)