CIB Special Event

CIB Symposium on Construction & Environment

Theory into Practice

23\textsuperscript{rd} and 24\textsuperscript{th} November 2000, São Paulo, Brazil

By

Chris Pollington and Prof. Vahan Agopyan

This Symposium was the first of two major events, which had been arranged by Prof. Vahan Agopyan and his colleagues in the period preceding the meetings of the CIB policy organs which are featured in the “From CIB Management” section of this Information Bulletin. The Symposium took place at the Escola Politecnica of the University of São Paulo.

The Symposium objectives, as originally stated, were to analyse market driven policies and to investigate practical solutions for the construction industry in Latin America to face the environmental demands from society. From the CIB side the aim was to see how CIB itself could assist this development. Hopefully by so doing, CIB would increase the number of its members in that region.

By any standards this Symposium enjoyed a highly successful outcome. Not only on account of the number of participants, which was approximately 150, but also for the notable scientific level of the papers and the resulting stimulating discussions. The high standard of didactic skills deployed in many of the presentations also excited admiration.

The First Day

The first featured speaker at the Opening Ceremony on 23\textsuperscript{rd} November was the CIB President John Duncan, BRANZ New Zealand whose overview of CIB Activities struck an immediate and responsive chord in the audience.

Not only did John make a second presentation shortly afterwards, but as CIB President he had to occupy a central role in all the meetings which followed.
Plenary Session
Next came a Plenary Session with four presentations by CIB experts in the field concerned. These were:

- Christer Sjöström (KTH – Sweden): Durability of Building Materials and Components
- John Duncan (BRANZ – New Zealand): Innovation and Performance Based Building
- Roger Courtney (BRE – United Kingdom): The Role of Benchmarking in Achieving Sustainable Construction

A lively discussion ensued.

The Afternoon Session
The two Sessions in the afternoon mirrored the essence of the Symposium Theme. The first was on the topic of Reading of Industrial Wastes as Building Materials.

Among the papers was one on Red Mud, an Interesting Secondary Raw Material (J. Ambroise & J. Péra) and on Guidelines for Recycling in Management and Recycling of Construction Wastes (M.C. Bonanni & G.G. Serra.) The second took a searching look at Urban Sustainability. It included contributions on Environmental Aspects as a Determinant of Housing Mobility (M.C.G. Oliveira, A.A.F. Freitas & L.F.M. Heineck); Cutting Environmental Impact by Half Through Collaborative Performance Criteria (Hans Westling) and Recycling in Construction Sites: Environmental Responsibility and Cost Reduction (T.T. Pinto).

The Second Day
And so to the second day 24th November, when the entire morning was given over to nine Plenary Presentations. Again CIB experts from outside Brazil were well to the fore as the list of speakers and authors below demonstrates.

- K. Ghavami & C.S. Rodrigues – Brazil: Engineering Materials and Components with Plants Sustainable Communities: Teaching and Design Activities at Norie
- Miguel Aloysio Sattler – Brazil
- J.A. Tinker – United Kingdom: Improving the Thermal Performance of Concrete
- V.M. John & N.M.N. Sato – Brazil: Using Lightweight Aggregates Replacements
- R. Lamberts & F. Westphal – Brazil: Energy Efficiency in Building in Brazil
- Celia Neves – Brazil: Soil Cement as an Environmental Friendly Building Material
- Firmino S. de Siqueira Filho – Brazil: Sustainable Roofing – A Practical Assessment
The Afternoon Session
Themes for the afternoon Sessions were Environmental Friendly Construction Solutions, Building Wastes Recycling and Resources Consumption and Performance Evaluation.

Clearly a great deal of ingenuity had gone into devising solutions that were favourable to the Environment.


Eight presentations were tabled for the Session on Resources Consumption and Performance Evaluation. One had the intriguing title of Building Maintenance: Do the Potential Buyers of Properties Think of That? (A.R. Meira & L.F. M. Heineck). Areas of far more than local relevance were touched on. For example there was a paper on Strategies for Energy Conservation in Air Conditioning for Office Building in Brazil (F. Vittorino, M. Akutsu, A. Hernandez Neto & A. Tribess). The subject matter of another was the Durability of Concrete Produced with Mineral Waste of the Civil Construction Industry (S.M. Levy & P.R.L. Helene).

As on the first day, there was no lack of audience participation and participants freely exchanged their experiences to illuminate the topics even further.

Prof. V. Agopyan, General Coordinator of the Symposium and himself a CIB Board Member, brought Proceedings to a conclusion with a masterly summing up of the many issues which had been the focus of attention. He also took the opportunity to announce to the audience that the Portuguese Version of CIB's celebrated Agenda 21 on Sustainable Construction had been published.
Nor was that the end. Most of the participants stayed on for an enjoyable buffet and cocktail when the exchanges continued and acquaintances were cemented.

A well deserved vote of thanks is due to all who were in any way associated with this successful Symposium.

Hn Tinker from the University of Leeds, United Kingdom.

Han Agopyan holds up the Portuguese version of CIB’s Agenda 21 on Sustainable Construction.

Spanish version has already appeared and other languages are in the pipeline, a clear indication of the impact which this work has made in a short period.