Forthcoming Meeting

Joint Symposium CIB W092/W063/TG36/TG23

Procurement Systems and Technology Transfer

14 - 17 January 2002 Trinidad and Tabago

By

The University of West Indies

Background

- Working Commission W092 of the Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction was established in 1989. The Commission has organised many Symposia and collaborated with other Working Commissions. Recently such events have been held in Montreal (Canada), Gävle (Sweden), Chiang Mai (Thailand), Cape Town (South Africa), Santiago (Chile) and at the CIB World Building Congress held in Wellington, New Zealand.
- Task Group TG23 was established in 1997 to focus specifically on the issue of culture in construction procurement.
- Working Commission W063 was established in 1993 to focus on research into ways to provide affordable housing world wide.
Task Group TG36 has the aim of determining and promoting best practice in construction as concerns quality management.

**Theme and objectives**
This Symposium in Trinidad and Tobago will bring together researchers and practitioners from many parts of the world in order to share their research and knowledge within construction procurement.

The theme of the Symposium will be to report, review and speculate on construction procurement as a mechanism to both provide and facilitate technology transfer especially between nations of different economic, political and social status. The transfer of technology is rarely a culturally neutral exercise, so the cultural issues that can hinder successful transfer will be addressed. The provision of adequate housing that is affordable is an issue that needs to be addressed in terms of both the cultural issues involved and the procurement strategies that are appropriate. Quality assurance is taken to mean 'fitness for purpose', and clearly this impacts on technology transfer, culture and affordable housing.

**Venue**
Trinidad and Tobago, being located in the Southern Caribbean and a founder member of CARICOM, the English speaking regional economic and trade alliance, is ideally placed to explore these issues. As an oil-producer it has a relatively healthy economy and trades actively and openly in the international economy. Its relevance as a location for a Symposium of this nature is compounded by its developing nation status, so that it is both an active node in global commerce and also busy modernising and developing its industrial capabilities and its workforce. Additionally, due to its tropical climate and being in a region of the world subject to hurricanes and tropical storms, risk and its management are of prime concern for the built environment both physically and psychologically for the population.

**Call for papers**
In order to focus on the theme of the Symposium papers are invited addressing the following aspects:

- Developments in procurement strategies especially those involving partnerships and alliances bringing together corners of the world and is thus subject to man different approaches to business and commerce, and the problems which this creates are further multi-national participants.
- Projects involving private finance initiatives, especially in a global context.
- Procurement strategies to achieve quality and affordability
- The impact of procurement strategies on the environment and sustainability.
- The terms and conditions imposed by international lending agencies for development projects.
- Cultural issues relating to the definition of best practice
- Development and application of techniques as an aid to more effective construction procurement including:
  - Benchmarking
  - Value management
  - Total quality management
  - Reengineering
  - Buildability
  - Risk management
- Information and communication issues in construction procurement.

A particular focus set for the Symposium will be the use of construction procurement as a catalyst to enhance learning and understanding in terms of how we do things, why we do things and what improvements can be brought about.

The Symposium language will be English.

Abstracts of not more than 150 words should be submitted to the organising committee for consideration not later than 1st March 2001. Each abstract should clearly indicate the topic being addressed.

The submission must include the name, address, fax number and e-mail of the author to be contacted concerning the paper.

**Programme Activities**

The Symposium will include Keynote presentations by eminent researchers and practitioners from industry and practice.

A social programme including a Symposium dinner and technical and cultural events will be arranged. There will also be a full and varied accompanying persons’ programme.

**Symposium Fees**

The fee for the Symposium will be:

- US$ 400.00 for registration on or before 1st December 2001
- US$ 450.00 for registration after 1st December 2001

For Research Students registered for Mphil Phd’s the fee will be US$ 250.00.

**Accommodation**

Accommodation is being arranged at special rates by Baxter’s Limited, Professional Conference Management. A range of different accommodation is available, at different cost and quality, as indicated below.

The venue for the Symposium will be the CASCADIA HOTEL

The Cascadia Hotel and Conference Centre is located a short distance from central Port of Spain.

All bookings should be made through Baxter’s Ltd. At their email address: Baxters@wow.net.

**Contact**

All correspondence concerning the Symposium should be addressed to:

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