



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

INFORMATION

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Around the Task Group and Working Commissions

Report Joint W092 Symposium with W063, TG36 and TG23 – “International Symposium on Procurement Systems and Technology Transfer in Trinidad & Tobago, in January 2002”

by

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The Working Commission W092 (Procurement systems) was joined by W063 (Affordable Housing), and Task Groups TG36 (Quality Assurance In Construction) and TG23 (Culture In Construction), though only TG23 made its presence felt in any significant way. The intention was to broaden the field of discussion from a focus on procurement to bring in some of the specific problems faced by developing nations and the potential impact of the procurement systems used on technology transfer, particularly the North-South flow of technology.



The Symposium was organised to coincide with a national Building Industry Trade Show

The Symposium was organised to coincide with the First Caribbean Building Industry Trade Show. The opening ceremony was addressed by dignitaries from both functions, with the keynote address being made by the Principal of the University of the West Indies, Dr Bhoendradatt Tewarie. He called on local engineers to be more innovative and to pay particular attention to local problems, and to use the opportunities presented by Symposia like this to interact with their peers from around the world. Dr Tewarie mentioned as one topical example the problems associated with 'sea-blast' on coastal structures in small island countries. Due to a recent general election and an important cabinet meeting, the Minister of Works was unable to attend, and the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry made his apologies and read his address, wishing the participants a successful meeting and a valuable interchange of ideas. Dr Mike Lewis and his team were complimented on their efforts in making the Symposium happen.



During the Banquet Prof. David Jaggar hold his speech (Prof. Imbert, Dr. Chin & Dr. Fellows in audience)

In the event, a very interesting Symposium was enjoyed by all. It attracted more than 50 experts from every continent, and many of the papers provoked lively discussion, particularly on modern forms of the procurement process and their implications on performance, with cultural issues often in the background.

Peter Brandon kicked off the proceedings with a very interesting keynote address on the virtues of virtual reality and its role in construction's future. The keynotes which introduced the following two day's proceedings brought the focus very much back down to earth by addressing some of the specific problems arising from procurement practices in the construction industry in the Caribbean today. The problems that were identified were clearly familiar to other parts of the world.

The social side of the Symposium was not neglected, with participants being treated to the range of local cultural entertainment. Being close to Carnival time – a very important event in Trinidad & Tobago – the calypso tents were in full swing, and the steel pan sides were practicing hard for Panorama – the pan 'World Championships'. One of the top pan sides, the Trinidad Skiffle Bunch (sponsored by Trinidad Cement Ltd) provided a selection of 20 or so out of their 100 plus players to provide the entertainment at a reception hosted by the Principal of the University of the West Indies, Dr Bhoendradatt Tewari. This was a very enjoyable evening in the beautiful tropical setting of the garden of the Principal's official house.



Symposium Chairman Dr. Lewis at the reception with part of the TCL Skiffle Bunch Pan Orchestra

The Symposium closed with the traditional Banquet at which the entertainment was provided by Mungal Patasar on sitar, together with his backing group playing, a very individual sort of indo-jazz fusion. Although feeling a little under the weather with a sinus problem, David Jaggar gave his usual entertaining summary of the week's personalities and events.



Symposium reception featuring Prof. Jaggar, Langford and Imbert (back to camera).

As usual a great deal of important work was done over 'refreshments', particularly in the Pelican and 'Smokey and Bunty's'. During the periods of discussion at the technical sessions and over refreshments, a number of new ideas for the direction of research and development were raised, and these were aired and discussed at the commission meetings of W092 and TG23.

Proceedings

Concerning the proceedings reference is made to a separate article in the section "New CIB Publication".