



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

INFORMATION

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From the CIB Management

Board Report

The President's Message

by



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Introduction

In April 2001, in my message as incoming President of CIB, I mentioned that this is indeed an honour and a challenge. I also mentioned that our vision, as a new Board, " is to achieve recognition for CIB as the real and virtual network of the global construction community, and to maintain the relevancy and transparency of all CIB operations and outcomes". So how did we do in our first year?

This year has certainly been exciting and challenging. You will find much evidence to that in this Board report. I would, however, like to give particular mention to certain activities that exemplify these challenges as they also represent the direction setters for CIB.

The "Pro-Active Approach"

During the past year, significant progress was made in all three Pro-Active Approach (PAA) themes: Sustainable Construction, Performance-Based Buildings, and Re-engineering Construction. The achievements under these programs represent a major recognition of CIB's international role as a network builder and facilitator. However, it also represented a major new challenge for CIB to coordinate, manage and ensure delivery of outcomes. Yet another challenge is to do all that while building and maintaining our core activities of Working Commissions and Task Groups. This past few months have been a major learning experience for all CIB Secretariat staff, who has done an excellent job to maintain a balanced delivery of all these tasks within existing resources.



As you may know, the European Commission has accepted CIB's proposal to establish a Thematic Network "Performance-Based Buildings" or PeBBu that started on October 1, 2001 and will run for four years. The project is generating a true global participation currently consisting of 32 European members and 15 non-European members, and is picking up momentum. Australia and North America are investigating the possibility of National Platforms. The PeBBu Domain leaders are preparing for their first Workshops throughout Europe in summer of 2002 that will conclude in the first project deliverables. We also anticipate the participation by another 13 Eastern European organizations by summer 2002.

Unfortunately, a companion project to develop three PBB Compendia – PeBBuCo was not accepted by the EU. However it left the door open for future re-submission once PeBBu is underway. In the meantime, CIB will continue to advance this part of the work through other partnerships.

In the area of Sustainable Construction, the CIB Program Committee has commissioned a study to help CIB establish its role and strategic directions in this area. The results of the study will be reviewed by the PC at the May 2002 meeting. As a second outcome of this study, a proposal was submitted to the EU to establish a second Thematic Network, SCooBE or Sustainable Construction of Built Environments. This proposal was not successful. In hindsight, this may be a blessing for the CIB as, if accepted, it would have further stressed the resources of CIB creating a very difficult position. The proposal will be amended and re-submitted for EC funding in principle in 2003.

On the other hand, there are indications of a start of a successful relationship with the UN. A memorandum of understanding (MOU), has been signed with the UNEP-IETC to work together on the implementation of sustainable construction in developing countries.

Under the third theme, Re-engineering Construction, a study to define CIB's role have been commissioned. Three international workshops were organized and much valuable input was received from participants. The final outcome of this commissioned work will be announced at an International Symposium in early 2003.

CIB Development Foundation, CIBdf

In response to the new directions and obligations brought about by the CIB new role in delivering services (as a contractor), the CIBdf was established in April 2001. Upon the acceptance of the EU to the PeBBu proposal, CIB has requested and CIBdf accepted to take the responsibility for this contract. At its meeting in September 2001, the CIB board approved in principle the guidelines for the relationship between CIB and CIBdf. A contract will be established to officially establish this relationship. More work is still

needed to streamline the operations of CIBdf to ensure the effective delivery of these contracts.

CIB Endorsed Student Chapters

In recognition for the potential role that student chapters can play in building the future members and leaders of CIB, the Gyula Sebestyen Fellowship was redirected to encourage the activities of these Student Chapters and has become the Gyula Sebestyen Award. Four excellent proposals were submitted in response to the first call. Congratulations to the University of Salford's CIB Student Chapter. They are this year's 2002 award winners for their proposal to create a virtual conference of their annual International Postgraduate Conference. As part of their award, they will offer funds to the other 3 student chapters to send 1 representative to the conference to be held on April 11 and 12, 2002.

CIB Core Business

Working Commissions and Task Groups are still the lifelines of CIB. During the past year, 1 new Working Commission and 3 new Task Groups were established. It is also a very encouraging sign that many of these groups are involved with the Pro-Active Approach initiatives.

Of special mention is TG 50 Tall Buildings that came as a direct reaction to the tragic events of September 11, 2001. Two other activities have also been initiated to help the global construction research community formulate the research agenda to deal with the needs identified as a result of this event. A virtual discussion forum was established on the CIB web page and a Global Tall Building Summit, hosted by BRE, was held on April 24-26, 2002. Proceedings will be available in the near future on the CIB web site.

A CIB Financial Policy

On the Management side, the Treasurer determined that there is a need to streamline some of the procedures at the Secretariat and to establish a formal financial policy that will facilitate the transition from one Board to the next. This process started with a special meeting of the Officers Committee in February 2002 in Rotterdam. Many actions have been initiated and a financial policy is already taking shape.

CIB World Congress 2004

Following two congresses focused on specific PAA themes, it was decided that the 2004 Congress will be a good time to showcase the breadth of CIB activities (through the WCs and TGs) and their significant achievements over the last few years. A congress program that parallels CIB activities is being planned. I expect that many CIB coordinators will take an active role in the congress and invite you all to take part and join us in Toronto to make it a true demonstration of the relevance and excellence of your work.



Closing remarks

These are challenging times, times of profound changes for many of us. For CIB, we may be witnessing the most significant change as we quickly approach its 50th Anniversary in 2003. It is a change that will make CIB a true global leader for research and innovation in building and construction bringing significant benefits to its members. These times require full and active participation of all members of CIB; I know CIB can count on you!

Thank you.