



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

INFORMATION

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Around the Task Groups and Working Commissions

TG50 – Tall Buildings

The 1st Tall Buildings Summit Held at BRE in Garston, UK

by

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In the six months following the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center towers in New York City, there has been a measurable impact on the continued use, design, and construction of very tall buildings worldwide. There is a sense of uneasiness and concern – from the public, from corporate leaders, from insurers, and from those in the construction industry – regarding the current level of safety in, and resilience of, such buildings.

Given the importance of tall buildings in today's urban environment, the International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction (CIB), in collaboration with the Building Research Establishment (BRE), convened a global Summit to begin exploring the broad social and technical issues surrounding the impact of the collapse of the World Trade Center towers on use and construction of tall buildings. This Summit attracted a diverse group of stakeholders from more than a dozen countries, including representatives from national governments, building and fire regulatory development and enforcement, developers, building owners, corporations, engineering firms, research laboratories, and academia.

After a day and a half of presentations and discussion on a wide range of relevant topics, those assembled focused on where research is needed to better understand the current situation, and to address the challenges faced in this new environment. From the numerous areas identified, the assembly focused on four overriding needs:

- A process is needed to guide the integration of societal expectations, risk perceptions, technological capabilities, and cost into the design, construction, regulation and operation of tall buildings at a level of risk that is tolerable to society.
- Within the above process, a holistic, risk-informed model is needed that describes and accounts for the interactions of a tall buildings with its various systems, the people who occupy and use it, and the range of events considered appropriate for assessing the building's performance against the level of risk deemed tolerable for the building.
- Within the above process, and in support of the holistic model, guidelines are needed to describe how to develop risk-informed and risk-based regulations, codes, standards, guides and practices aimed at achieving and maintaining a level of tolerable risk in tall buildings.
- A mechanism must be developed to communicate with and engage the broad range of stakeholders in the discussions and deliberations that will ultimately be used as a basis for establishing tolerable levels of risk for very tall buildings, and for their continued use, design, construction and operation.

To understand what will be required for people to feel comfortable living and working in very tall buildings, and thus for very tall buildings to continued to be



designed, constructed, occupied and used, the above needs must be urgently addressed. This will require a significant, multi-disciplinary research effort on a global basis, with input and support from all stakeholders, including government, industry and the public.

The TG50 Tall Building Task Group members will be producing a brochure listing the agenda that was will be included in this detailed brochure with the over and outcomes from the 1st Tall Building Summit. This brochure will be available from the CIB website Tall Building section as soon as it is completed. The 2nd Tall Buildings Summit will be held 8-10 May 2003 in Kuala Lumpur. Information can be obtained by going to <http://www.cibklutm.com>.