



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

INFORMATION

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Around the Task Groups and Working Commissions

W099 – Quality and Safety on Construction Sites

Triennial Conference in Hong Kong, China

by



Prof. Steve Rowlinson

The Third Triennial Conference of CIB Working Commission W099, took place on May 7-10, 2002 in Hong Kong. The event was enjoyed by all participants and was a success on both the academic and practical fronts. The conference was treated to two excellent keynotes from Dr Helen Lingard, of Melbourne University, Australia and Prof Alistair Gibb of Loughborough University, UK. Both of these moved away from the conventional safety issues and dealt with a major area of concern – health. Alistair, in the main, addressed physical health issues and Helen addressed issues of well being and stress.

In addition, K L Chow of Hong Kong Government's Works Bureau discussed how his Bureau had tackled health and safety issues in the public works programme from a strategic perspective and highlighted many of the innovations that had been

championed by the Bureau. From the contractors' perspective, Derek Smyth of Gammon presented some of the many initiatives that Gammon Skanska have brought to both the boardroom and the construction site. The impact of top management commitment on safety and health performance cannot be over-emphasised.

Our site visit took us to the Hong Kong CyberPort development and we were treated to a whirlwind tour of the site by CyberPorts Environmental, Health and Safety Manager – Ken Urqhart. Ken's years of experience at the Hong Kong Airport site stood him in good stead for this job and delegates were impressed with both the sight of bamboo scaffolding being used and the health and safety policies being implemented across the multi-contractor site.



Some W099 Conference participants at their field trip to Hong Kong CyberPort

On a lighter note, the cocktail reception on the evening of May 7th turned out to be a very good ice-breaker – if slightly unhealthy for some – and the conference dinner, a junk trip to Lamma Island for seafood dinner was the highlight for many. It was especially appreciated that at this dinner CIB Board Members participated who had just finalised their half-annual series of meetings in Hong Kong.

The conference proceedings, including all of the papers presented, are available for purchase in both CD Rom and hard copy format and non-attendees can find more information and most of the delegates powerpoint presentations by visiting the conference website at:

<http://hkusury2.hku.hk/steve/w99>

In addition, a number of the papers presented at the conference are being extended and re-worked into five main themes and these will form a new book, to be published by E&F Spon and this is provisionally entitled "Safety and Health Management: A guide to best practice". More details of this will be released through CIB very shortly.

Finally, I would like to use the auspices of the CIB Information Bulletin, to thank all of those who helped to make this CIB conference a success. In particular,

from overseas, Rick Coble, Luis Alves Dias, Theo Haupt and John Smallwood. From Hong Kong U (as we are known) Skye Kao, Donald Ng, Joe Lee, Kannex Chu, Fan Je and Dr Florence Phua.

A personal Evaluation



by

Prof. Adnan Enshassi
Gaza Strip – Palestinian Authority

It was an honour to me to participate at the Triennial Conference W099 Quality and Safety on Construction Sites in May 2002 in Hong Kong-China. This was the first CIB event to attend after three years when I



attended the CIB W065 Conference in South Africa. I would like to thank Dr. Wim Bakens the Secretary General of CIB who gave me a positive support and encouraged me to participate in this important meeting. Actually, Dr. Bakens has given special attention to developing countries in the last few years by supporting members and encourage events in some developing countries. Thanks also extended to Prof. Steve Rowlinson who has kindly reduced the conference Fees by half, and also to W099 coordinators Prof. Richard Coble and Prof. Luis Alves Dias who were very positive in enabling me to attend the conference.

I have got a number of benefits from the conference in terms: socially and professionally. After three years of absence from CIB events I was able to re-establish many new contacts in the field of safety and health on construction sites. I have gained from the conference new concepts, tools and technologies that have been developed in several developed countries and which is of particular interests to our newly developing country Palestine.

Due to the urgent need for improving the infrastructure in Palestine, as a result of the situation in the Middle East, an emergency program was established to reconstruct and build as much as possible in a short duration. This situation puts a lot of pressure on clients and contractors as well, in order to complete a number of projects (e.g. housing, schools, roads, water and sanitation) in a short time. There is still an absence of safety codes and regulations in Palestine. This has led to an increase in construction site in juries. Therefore, by participating in the W099 conference which is of special importance to me and to my country, I was able to exchange some ideas with my international peers. I have gained more information about the appropriateness of the methodologies and ideologies when applied to safety management systems a round the world.

Finally, I am planning to continue my contacts with my international peers at CIB in order to be able to improve the safety situation on construction sites in Palestine.