News of the Forthcoming Meeting

Knowledge Construction

First Announcement and Call for Papers

Joint International Symposium of CIB Working Commissions

W055 – Building Economics
W065 – Organisation and Management of Construction
W107 – Construction in Developing Countries

22nd – 24th October 2003, Singapore

Organised by

Department of Building, National University of University

Background
The post-industrial economies have entered a stage where the production, distribution and use of knowledge and innovation are the main determinants of corporate competitiveness and national growth. These economies are characterised by accelerating technological advances (especially in information and
communications, biotechnology and materials); rapid movement of investment; global competition; and realisation of the effect of productive activities on the environment.

This "knowledge-based global economy" has implications for all business activities. It offers opportunities and the means to improved performance but also creates rapid change, uncertainty, and adjustment problems. Firms in such an economy will have flexible organisations based on multi-task responsibilities and teamwork. They can achieve high product quality and customisation together with speed and low costs.

What challenges does the knowledge-based economy pose to the construction industry in countries at various stages of development? How can industries, firms and practitioners meet these demands? What corporate strategies would be most appropriate? What will be the most appropriate relationship between government and industry?

For developing countries, fundamental problems and constraints in the construction industries must be addressed. The possible adverse effects of failure to prepare for the new imperatives are more serious; and the resources and expertise for addressing them are also scarce. Thus, the need for action is more pressing.

Who Should Attend The Symposium?
The proposed Symposium will bring together some 250 researchers, academics, administrators and practitioners from countries at all levels of development to share knowledge and experiences, and identify priority areas for research and policy initiatives in construction in the knowledge economy. Part of the conference will focus on issues relating to developing countries.

Conference Themes
- The themes of the Symposium are:
  - The Knowledge Age and its Implications for Construction
  - New Models of the Construction Industry, Project and Process
  - Developing the Resources
  - Sustainable Construction
  - Competitive Strategies for a New Age
  - International Construction
  - Innovation in Construction
  - Developing Countries
  - Championing, and Networks for, Industry Development

Language
The language to be used at the conference is English.

Abstracts and Papers
Abstracts of not more than 150 words should be submitted to the organising committee for consideration not later than 30 November 2002. Each Abstract should indicate the theme of the conference which the proposed paper will address, and give the name, address, fax number and e-mail address of the author to be contacted concerning the paper. Abstracts will be reviewed according to the relevance to the themes and objectives of the conference; originality of the subject matter; likely academic rigour of the proposed paper; and likely contribution to knowledge, or practical relevance, of the proposed paper (as appropriate).

Authors will be advised of the Review Committee’s decision on their papers by 1 December 2002. Completed papers should be submitted by 30 April 2003. These will be subject to 'blind' refereeing. Authors will be notified of the referees’ comments on their papers by 31 May 2003. Final versions of papers must be submitted by 30 July 2003.

Important Dates
Deadlines for key events of the Symposium are:
- Submission of Abstracts 30 November 2002
- Notification of Abstract Acceptance 1 December 2002
- Submission of Papers for Consideration 30 April 2003
- Submission of Final Versions of Papers 30 July 2003.

Proceedings
Each participant in the conference will be issued with a bound set of the papers to be presented. The conference proceedings (a selection of the papers presented, Rapporteurs’ comments and summary of discussions) will be published by a leading commercial publishing house.

Conference Fees
The fees for the conference will be:
- Singapore dollars 700 for registration before 15 September 2003
- Singapore dollars 700 for group registration (3 or more persons from one organisation)
- Singapore dollars 750 for registration on or after 15 September 2003 (except group registration).

Conference Secretariat
Conference Chairman
George Ofori
Department of Building, National University of Singapore
4 Architecture Drive, SINGAPORE 117566
e-mail: bdgofori@nus.edu.sg

Conference Secretary
All correspondence concerning the conference (including submission of Abstracts and Papers) should be addressed to:
Miss Elsie Lim
Department of Building, National University of Singapore
4 Architecture Drive, SINGAPORE 117566. Fax: (065) 6775 5502
e-mail: bdglime@nus.edu.sg; bdgofori@nus.edu.sg

Symposium URL:
http://www.bdg.nus.edu.sg/ickc

Meeting Brochure: