CIB and Tyndall Centre (North) hosted a successful conference on "Climate Change and the Built Environment" in early April.

The conference arranged by Professor Geoff Levermore and his team was well attended, with over 40 papers and just under 80 delegates. There were several papers on future climate extremes and their effects on buildings, as well as recent observations of the urban heat island effect in cities such as Tokyo, Lisbon and London. The effects of climate change on buildings will be wide-ranging, from structural damage and increased indoor temperatures, to energy usage including renewables, and meeting the Kyoto Protocol targets. The effect of the “heat island phenomenon” could create changes in heat load, with increased cooling demand and reduced heating. Good building design and the implications for the indoor environment is vital.

Max Fordham (CIBSE President), David Fisk (Chief Scientist and Head of Central Strategy at the DTLR), David Easterling (Principal Scientist at the National Climatic Data Center, USA) and Dr Mike Hulme of the Tyndall Centre gave keynote papers. These included issues of the impacts of climate-change in the UK, the Kyoto Protocol and climate variations during the Twentieth Century.

Feedback from the delegates was very positive and the conference was considered stimulating and useful. Most of the papers were from overseas researchers, who gave thought-provoking and lively presentations. This timely conference came just weeks before the launch of the UK Climate Impacts Programme publication “Climate Change Scenarios for the UK”.
Commissioned by DEFRA and written by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research and the UK Met Office’s Hadley Centre. The scenarios raise awareness of regional climate change issues and describe a range of plausible futures.

A CD ROM of the papers is available, for €24, from Sue Stubbs at UMIST: s.stubbs@umist.ac.uk

Some of the Conference delegates

The Conference team being thanked by Prof Stansby, Head of the Manchester Centre of Civil & Construction Engineering, UMIST (4th from left) with, left to right: Mrs H McCaffery, Dr A Wright, Mr D Chow, Prof P Stansby, Mr N Doylend, Prof G Levermore and Miss S Stubbs.