

INFORMATION

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Editorial

Presidential Message – CIB Board Report 2002



by

Dr. Sherif Barakat

CIB President

NRCC-IRC, Toronto Canada

Another very busy year has passed. In 2002, CIB faced many new challenges and achieved a number of successes on the road “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”. 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 and successes.

The “Pro-Active Approach”

During the past year, significant progress continued to be made in all three Pro-Active Approach (PAA) themes: Sustainable Construction, Performance-Based Buildings, and Re-engineering Construction, now termed “Re-valuing Construction.

The EU funded PeBBu – Performance Based Building – project is now in place for approximately 1.5 year and in principle will run for another 2.5 years. The project has delivered its first progress report to the EU and is beginning to establish CIB’s name as a world leading organization in the area and is creating a good platform for effective cooperation with partners and also with CIB commissions and task groups, but at the same time the need to have the project managed properly is drawing heavily upon the limited resources available at the CIB Secretariat.

In the area of Sustainable Construction, a major success was the production of the publication “Agenda 21 on Sustainable Construction in Developing Countries that was initiated by CIB and jointly funded by CIB, UNEP, CIDB, South Africa and BOUTEK. Amongst others, it was presented at the Earth Summit for Sustainable Development in South Africa and at the successful CIB-iiSBE Conference “Sustainable

Buildings, 02" in Oslo, Norway. Currently, CIB and UNEP are discussing how to take the agenda forward into a funded program that aims for the actual implementation of sustainable construction in the developing world.

Under the third theme, Re-Valuing Construction, a CIB strategy was defined and a project was commissioned in support of its implementation. Main components in this strategy concern the establishment of a CIB or CIBdf facilitated Construction Clients Platform, the submission of a proposal for an EU funded program, and the support to CIB commissions and task groups to develop a collaborative program in support of the overall CIB strategy. Also, a very successful Re-Valuing Construction was held in February in Manchester, UK with participants representing most sectors of the industry. Participants valued CIB's role as a catalyst and information provider in this important area.

New Proposals for EU Projects

In mid 2002, CIB submitted various EoI's – Expressions of Interest – for proposals as to be funded under the EU's 6th Framework Program. By the end of the year, this resulted in an involvement by CIB, as one of the leading partners, in two proposals for very substantial projects:

- CityHome, that aims for the establishment of a new organization of a sector for the industrialized production and delivery of affordable housing
- EcoSpace that deals with new concepts and technologies for healthy, safe, intelligent and sustainable spaces

In these two projects major components were incorporated that concern the further development and implementation of CIB's programs as related to Performance Based Building and Re-valuing Construction. Unfortunately, we now know (May 2003) that the EU has rejected both proposals and discussions on whether or not to revise and re-submit it, at the time of writing, have not yet resulted in a final conclusion.

CIB Endorsed Student Chapters

The activities of the CIB Endorsed Student Chapters are now developing to greater heights. The number of CIB Endorsed Student Chapters has increased to 8 from the original 5, and at least 7 more applications are expected within the coming weeks.

The Annual PhD Conference organized by the Student Chapter of the University of Salford was arranged this year in collaboration with "Escola Superior de Actividades Immobiliáras" in Lisbon, Portugal. The conference was a great success with more than 70

speakers and is attracting more PhD students every year. In the same spirit, the Student Chapter at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University is organizing a PhD Symposium on September 26-27, 2003 in Hong Kong. It is expected that the Symposium will be an annual event that will increase the awareness of PhD Students on CIB's activities in that part of the world.

The Gyula Sebestyen Award is running for the second consecutive year with five excellent proposals received by the General Secretariat in 2003.

CIB Working Commissions and Task Groups

Working Commissions and Task Groups are still the lifelines of CIB. During the past year, 2 new Task Groups were established (TG51 – Usability of Work Places and TG52 – Transport and the Built Environment) and two former Task Groups were upgraded to the level of a Working Commission (W107 – Construction in Developing Countries and W108 – Climate Change and the Built Environment).

CIB General Secretariat

It is now becoming obvious that the actual implementation of the Pro-Active Approach, the management of CIBdf and CIB's active involvement in EU proposals and in proposals for other programs, is taking its toll on the ability to continue performing its traditional tasks of the General Secretariat. A review of the Secretariat's tasks and capabilities will be required and may initiate certain necessary actions.

During the past years, The Treasurer and I have again visited the CIB offices in Rotterdam and worked closely with the SG and staff on several issues to streamline the operations of the Secretariat including:

- Continued progress on developing a CIB Financial policy,
- A clearer financial reporting system is being established including quarterly financial reports,
- Progress achieved on a number of staff-related issues such as the pension scheme and employment contracts, and
- A clearer picture is emerging on the relationship between CIB and CIBdf.

CIB World Congress 2004

Preparations for the CIB 2004 World Congress in Toronto are progressing very well. A congress program that parallels CIB activities is proving to be successful attracting over 470 abstracts. Over 25 Commissions and Task Groups will be meeting in Toronto in conjunction with the Congress and many CIB coordinators will take an active role in the congress to make it a true demonstration of the relevance and excellence of CIB work. You are all

invited to visit the Congress web site at www.cib2004.ca for the latest information.

Closing Remarks

As we enter CIB's 50th Anniversary Year, it is time to reflect on CIB's excellent achievements over the past 50 years and look forward to the achievements of the next 50 years. The world is changing and posing new challenges everyday. It is incumbent upon us, all CIB members, to face these changes with innovation and creativity and point CIB into a direction that will make it a dynamic organization and a true global leader for research and innovation in building and construction bringing significant benefits to its members