



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

INFORMATION

April 2005

Around the Task Groups and Working Commissions

W102 – Information and Knowledge Management in Building

Introducing the New Joint Coordinator



Dr. Francisco Loforte Texeira Ribeiro

During its latest meeting that took place on March 8 2005 in Madrid, Spain, the Programme Committee appointed Dr. Francisco Loforte the new joint Coordinator of CIB Working Commission W102 on Information and Knowledge Management in Building. Below follows a short CV of Dr. Loforte.

Professional Degrees

Degrees:

- PhD, University of Salford 1995
- Master of Science, Construction from Universidade Tecnica de Lisboa –UTL, 1990
- Graduate Diploma in Civil Engineering from Universidade de Lourenço Marques 1973
- Bachelor Diploma in Civil Engineering and Mining, from Instituto Industrial de Lourenço Marques

- Master-Builder, from Escola Industrial de Lourenço Marques

Professional Bodies: Associate of Ordem dos Engenheiros de Portugal

Present Position: Associate Professor, Instituto Superior Técnico, Universidade, Universidade Técnica de Lisboa

Coordinator of Construction Management and Economics Studies, Instituto Superior Técnico, Universidade Técnica de Lisboa
Associate Researcher of ICIST- Instituto de Engenharia de Estruturas, Território e Construção
Associate consultant of African Development Bank
Consultant for Europe-Aid

Previous Positions: Director of the Master in Construction, IST-UTL



Coordinator of Construction Studies, ICIST- Instituto de Engenharia de Reestruturas, Território e Construção

Education

- 1968-1973 Civil Engineer Diploma, Universidade de Lourenço Marques, Mozambique
 1988-1990 MSc, Universidade Técnica de Lisboa, Portugal
 1991-1995 PhD, University of Salford, UK

Further Education

- 1988 Knowledge-Base Expert Systems
 1994 Project Appraisal, University of Salford, UK

Academic Experience

- 1991-1996 Senior Lecturer, Instituto Superior Tecnico, UTL
 1996-2004 Assistant Professor, Instituto Superior Tecnico, UTL
 1999-2000 Professor, Universidade Eduardo Mondlane, Mozambique
 From 2004 Associate Professor, Instituto Superior Tecnico, UTL
 Associate Professor, Instituto Superior de Ciências Políticas e Sociais

Research Areas

- Knowledge management in construction
- Construction economics and management

Professional Experience

- 1968-1970 Quantity Surveyor, Direcção de Obras Públicas, Mozambique
 1970-1972 Civil Engineer, Junta Autonoma de Estradas, Mozambique
 1973-1974 Supervisor Engineer, Massingir Dam, Mozambique
 1974-1975 Senior Engineer, Cahora-Bassa Dam, Mozambique
 1975-1976 Deputy-Director of Zambezi Cabinet
 1976-1979 Consultant, Economy and Social Council of United Nations
 1979-1983 Director Construction Industry Board, Mozambique
 1983-1986 CEO, Construtora Regional Sul, Mozambique
 1986-1990 Project Manager, Bratex-ACE, Portugal
 1986-1990 Project Manager, Empresa Pública de Urbanização de Lisboa, Portugal
 1998-1999 Consultant, EXPO 98, Portugal
 1999-2005 Skills Developer, FUNDEC, Portugal

Professional Committees

- 1999 – to Date
 Conselho Nacional da Qualidade, Portugal

Research Supervision

- (3) Three PhD, Instituto Superior Tecnico, Universidade Tecnica de Lisboa, Portugal
- (14) Fourteen MSc, Instituto Superior Tecnico, Universidade Tecnica de Lisboa, Portugal

Polytechnic and University Course Development

- 1998-2000 Civil Engineering 2000 Curricula, Portugal
 2000 to date MSc in Construction, Instituto Superior Tecnico, Portugal

Publications

In addition to a number of addresses at International Conferences and Papers in refereed Journals. Prof. Loforte has contributed in editing Journals and with contribution to a number of books' chapters. A summary of important contributions is given below.

Edition of Journals

Love P.E. and Ribeiro, F.L.: "Construction Innovation. Information and Process Management" Vol. 3, Nº 1, 2003, Alden Press Oxford.
 Love P.E., Craig S., Corbitt B. and Ribeiro, F.L., "Journal of Enterprise Information Management"
 Electronic Markets: Challenges and Opportunities.

Chapters in Books

Loforte Ribeiro, F. (1999) "Construction Management of Large Scale Building Projects. The case of Colombo Center Project, Lisbon", in Profitable Partnering in Construction Procurement, edited by S. Ogunlana E & FN Spon, pp. 295-306, London, UK.
 Loforte Ribeiro F. (1999), "Verification and Validation of a Multistrategy Knowledge-Based System" in Validation and Verification of Knowledge Based Systems: Theory, Tools and Practice, pp. 207-220, Kluwer Academic Publishers.

Coordinator's Statement

Information is a key competitive resource of any building project and knowledge is a vital organizational asset. Information and knowledge are critical ingredients of the building processes and key enablers for change and innovation.



Information ensures that the building processes can be conducted effectively and efficiently. Knowledge on the other hand is becoming a critical success factor for business processes. Therefore, information and knowledge should be managed and used in a manner which leads to the creation of economic, technical and business value, as well as support for sustainable buildings.

Construction is an information and knowledge driven industry. Each building project is unique regarding the way specialist professionals manage and use information and knowledge. A building project generates a rich body of information and knowledge for reuse. Each project provides us a unique experience regarding information and knowledge. It conveys the point of the uniqueness of the building industry.

The technology has changed the way construction organizations all over the world manage information and knowledge in building. Construction companies are increasingly being challenged by shortened project cycles and increasing competition. Globalization has brought new challenges, as well as more opportunities for building industry. The private sector has taken new responsibilities in the building process. All these events have an important impact on information and knowledge management. The real issue for building researchers and professionals is how to manage information and knowledge to rip the advantages out of these challenges. How can we take advantage of information and knowledge management for achieving competitive edge and sustainability in building industry?

This Working Commission will explore these issues and others and seek ways to develop and further our understanding and awareness of information and knowledge management through international conferences, commission meetings, collaborative research groups and PhD thesis. It will continue to tackle issues related to the current research program, including the "agenda 21: Information and Documentation a Research Agenda" developed by former coordinators Prof. Colin Davidson and Dr. Branka Dimitrijevic. Network communication and publication tools on information and knowledge management will be promoted through project reports, books, and special issues in journals, as well as through newsletters and discussion groups.

W102 will seek the active participation of the main building stakeholders including academics, researchers, designers, construction professional, promoters, regulators, companies, users in shaping and implementing the research agenda related to information and knowledge management in building.

Additional Information

If you are interested in joining (or making contribution to) W102, please contact: Dr. Branka Dimitrijevic
Email: branka.dimitrijevic@strath.ac.uk and
Dr. Francisco Loforte Ribeiro loforte@civil.ist.utl.pt.
You can find more information on the activities of CIB W102 at www.cibworld.nl
Search under Databases/CIB Commissions.
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