



CIB NEWS ARTICLE

International Council for Research and Innovation
in Building and Construction

Providing a global network for international exchange and cooperation in research and innovation in building and construction, in support of an improved building process and of improved performance of the built environment.

December 2005

Pro-Active Approach - Theme 1

Request for Expressions of Interest to hold 2007 Regional or National Conferences on Sustainable Building and Construction



In 1994, the International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction (CIB), held an international green building conference in London, UK. As a part of the international Green Building Challenge process, now operated by the International Initiative for a Sustainable Built Environment (iiSBE), an international conference on green building was held in Vancouver in 1998. Following these initial ground-breaking events, CIB and iiSBE joined forces to co-sponsor international conferences on sustainable building (SB) in Maastricht in 2000, Oslo in 2002 and Tokyo in 2005.

In each of these conferences one or more local organizations have taken financial and organizational responsibility, while the GBC countries (now represented by iiSBE) and CIB have been co-sponsors. In this role, iiSBE and CIB have given organizational advice and have used their networks to ensure a large audience for the events. This role has been effective, as evidenced by an attendance of 600 in Vancouver, some 850 in Maastricht, and 1,100 in Oslo. The most recent conference in the series in Tokyo attracted more than 1,700 delegates.

In 2003 the Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE) of the United Nations Environment

Programme (UNEP), became a third co-sponsor for the next round in this series.

In 2004, the three co-sponsors assisted in the organization of several regional sustainable building conferences, which took place during 2004 and 2005. All of these regional events were designed to elucidate sustainable building issues in these regions, and to create a strong link with the global event in Tokyo in September 2005, chiefly through the tabling of regional SB strategy documents, including agendas for research and action programmes. The relevance for this proposal call is that we hope to sponsor a similar series of regional SB conferences in 2007, with links to the 2008 conference, which will be held in Melbourne, Australia, in November, 2008.

iiSBE, CIB and UNEP now invite Expressions of Interest for organizations to be named as hosts of the next series of national or regional conferences in the series, to be held during 2007.

Conditions and Requirements

In order for SB conference organizers to be eligible for endorsement and (non-monetary) support by CIB, iiSBE and DTIE/UNEP, certain basic conditions must be met, including the following:



1. The conference should be regional or national in scope, should be held during the calendar year 2007 and should contain the word SB07 in its name;
2. The conference organization must include representation from the private sector, industry associations, universities, research institutes and government;
3. There must be indications that the host organization(s) have the management and financial capacity to manage the organizational issues and financial risks of organizing the event;
4. There must be a commitment to invite representatives of CIB, iiSBE and SB08 Melbourne to participate (could be via e-mail) in an Advisory Committee of the event;
5. A representative of the conference organizing committee will be expected to participate in a central briefing and discussion session, to be held during late March 2006, in Netherlands. For those unable to find funding for travel, we will arrange web-based video-conferencing. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss each proposed event in more detail, conference dates, and content – see (8) and (13) below;
6. The conference should be designed to support local, national or regional initiatives related to sustainable building;
7. The conference should cover environmental, economic, social and organizational aspects of sustainable building and construction, ranging from materials to buildings to urban planning, and the conference program should try to achieve a balance between research and practice, and between commercial and non-commercial interests, while maintaining a clear focus on sustainable construction (e.g. not construction or building in general);
8. Case study examples of environmental performance assessments of buildings or small urban areas should be encouraged, and the SB08 Regional Committee will select a small number of representative case study assessments from each national or regional event for display, presentation and discussion at SB08. Performance assessments of case studies submitted must demonstrate that the predicted or actual case study performance exceeds national norms in GHG and water consumption by a factor of at least 2x, carried out using national or other recognized simulation or monitoring systems. Those using GBTool will have technical support provided by iiSBE. Case studies that also demonstrate whole-building assessments, using recognized assessment systems, are also encouraged, as long as these also meet the 2x performance requirement. Note that these requirements will be confirmed or adjusted according to the results of a stakeholder meeting outlined in (5) above;
9. The conference organizers will, in consultation with the SB08 Advisory Committee, select the ten best technical or policy papers from each conference for inclusion in a the proceedings of SB08;
10. The organizers will make efforts to ensure that the event is likely to be affordable by delegates (e.g. affordable registration fees and level of local accommodation expenses);
11. In the case of a regional conference, the organizers should develop a strategy to promote the attendance of delegates from nearby developing countries;
12. A report summarizing the current state of sustainable construction in the nation or region and outlining an action program for rapid implementation, must be prepared after the conference and submitted to the global SB08 Regional Committee no later than June 30, 2008. Regional reports will form an important part of the SB08 conference;
13. The contents of the post-conference report (see (12) above) will be decided at the stakeholder meeting outlined in (5) above. It is anticipated that the report should cover at least the following topics:
 - current status and action plan for development for establishing performance targets for SB;
 - current status and action plan for adoption of policies (tax, programs, regulations etc) that will further SB;
 - current status and action plan for adoption of SB by the investor community;
 - current status and action plan for education and training in SB;
 - current status and action plan for adoption of new SB technologies and techniques;
 - current status and action plan for adoption of SB whole-building performance rating systems.
14. Conference delegates will be asked to complete a questionnaire, to be developed in cooperation with the SB08 Regional Committee. The surveys will form part of the presentation of Regional perspectives at SB08;
15. Organizers should also develop a plan for how the key outcomes of SB08 Melbourne are to be disseminated within the relevant country or region;
16. Each conference should have a website that includes the common logo (provided by the SB Secretariat) and that links to the overall SB website.

Support by CIB and iiSBE

For SB conferences selected by CIB, iiSBE and DTIE/UNEP for the 2007 series, the co-sponsoring organizations will provide the following:

- Provision of a common logo;



- Advice on specific agenda structure;
- Access to contact lists and publicity, including web listing of the event in appropriate sponsor and SB08 websites;
- Cooperation and assistance in identifying international speakers;
- Assistance in identifying possible sources of financial support;
- Technical assistance by iiSBE to users of GBTool.

Expressions of Interest

We look forward to receiving your non-binding Expression of Interest, in electronic format, in a file not exceeding 12 pages with a file size not exceeding 2 MB, including any necessary appendices, to Nils Larsson of iiSBE no later than 15 February 2006.

The Expression of Interest should contain the following information:

- Contact information about the person and organization(s) proposing to hold the SB conference;
- Proposed date and location of the event, even if preliminary;
- Information relevant to the Requirements outlined above;
- Possible dates open for you to participate in a stakeholder meeting during late March to early April in Wageningen, the Netherlands, or by web teleconference.

It should be noted that the Expression of Interest is non-binding and can be preliminary in nature. More details will be discussed at the stakeholder meeting in late March 2006, and final detailed proposals are expected to form part of binding letters of agreement to be signed individually with each proponent no later than 1 July 2006.

Kindly register your preliminary interest in applying to Larsson@iisbe.org as soon as possible so that we can construct a list for any future announcements concerning this RFP. Answers to requests for clarifications will be made available to all applicants on the list.

On behalf of Ilari Aho, President of iiSBE, Wim Bakens, Secretary-General of CIB, and Monique Barbut, Director of Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, United Nations Environment Programme.

Nils Larsson, MRAIC, Executive Director,
International Initiative for a Sustainable Built
Environment (iiSBE)
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Additional Information Available

Information on CIB can be found at www.cibworld.nl

Information on iiSBE can be found at www.iisbe.org

Information on DTIE / UNEP can be found at www.uneptie.org/

Information on the recent Tokyo SB05 conference, at www.sb05.com.

Preliminary information on SB08 Melbourne at www.sb08melbourne.org.