



## 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

### Around the Task Groups and Working Commissions

#### W089 – Building Research and Education

### Report of W089 Meeting held in Brisbane, Australia, July 2005



by

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#### Introduction

CIB W089 held a joint meeting with TG53 on "Postgraduate Research Training in Building and Construction" and a number of CIB Endorsed Student Chapters on July 6 2005, in Brisbane, Australia. The meeting took place in conjunction with the 3<sup>rd</sup> CIB Student Chapters International Symposium.

Items on the agenda included a review of W089 activities in 2003 and 2004, collaboration plans with TG53 and the CIB Endorsed Student Chapters and preparations for the BEAR2006 conference.

#### Opportunities for collaboration

At the W089 meeting that took place in May 2004 in Toronto, it was agreed to coordinate agendas and aim for joint meetings with TG53. As TG53 already cooperates with the CIB Student Chapters, these will be associated to the joint activities. A number of tools are already available or under development, to facilitate communication and exchange of information as follows:

- The CIB SPIRIT (see <http://cibspirit.bre.polyu.edu.hk/>) is recommended especially as the communication portal between CIB Student.

- The [cib\\_bearw89@yahoogroups.com](mailto:cib_bearw89@yahoogroups.com) mailing list should also be used for information exchange. New members were strongly encouraged from TG53 and the CIB Student Chapters.
- The TG53 website being developed by the University of Salford partly as a Thesis Archive, would be an excellent complement.

It was suggested to actively encourage all current and future CIB Student Chapters to become members and active participants of TG53.

It was recommended that TG53 might conduct postgraduate research training at other postgraduate meetings, such as the ARCOM Doctoral forum, International Postgraduate Conferences and CIB Student Chapter symposia.

It was suggested that Student Chapters initiate similar collaborations as those made up by the QUT Chapter with local associations, such as AUBEA, CEBE, etc... in their respective countries.

#### Development of a Work Program

The existence of a series of International Postgraduate Research Conferences over recent years was discussed. The series of annual conferences initiated by Salford University would be rotated around European venues in future in communication with the CIB Secretariat. A series of similar events in



Australasia (Hong Kong, Beijing and Brisbane) were also noted, as was a desire for similar events with a regional focus in North America.

It was resolved that the W089 commission would look to TG53 to promote the research dimension that W089 originally had in its scope. In doing so it was hoped that the TG would undertake a supporting and facilitating role to the synergies possible between the existing and emerging student chapters.

It was also resolved that the series of regional postgraduate conferences should be supported by both W089 and TG53 and that beyond these, the triennial W089 conference should be used as a focal point for TG53 and student chapter work every 3 years.

### Organisation of the BEAR2006 Conference

The history and background of BEAR was discussed with emphasis on its recent increasing focus on teaching and learning issues and the tendency of its original mission and focus on research to have declined recently. A report was given of the 2003 conference and commission meeting in Salford, which had some 270 attendees with a significant engagement of UK academics. So far, W089 has met about every 3<sup>rd</sup> year, in conjunction with the BEAR conferences. It was decided and agreed to hold meetings more regularly. It was also agreed to target a regular meeting in association with future CIB congresses.

Albert Chan from Hong Kong PolyU reported on the organization of the BEAR 2006 conference. Technical Committee members review abstracts and full papers as part of the refereed conference process. The attendees agreed to arrange combined CIB W089, TG53 and International CIB Student Chapter meetings in Hong Kong during BEAR 2006. Albert Chan will coordinate with the organising committee to arrange a meeting venue (at the conference venue or at the university) as well as to arrange the time slots for the meeting (either parallel session or an add-on program).

More details are available from the conference website at online at [www.bear2006.net/conference](http://www.bear2006.net/conference).

### Future Meetings

The next W089 conference would be hosted by Professor Francis Wong of Hong Kong Poly U from 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> April 2006 in Hong Kong. The precise theme was yet to be confirmed but would be discussed in the course of the coming year. It was agreed that the theme might relate to issues of global construction and should embrace postgraduate research.

The attendees agreed to have combined meetings in future CIB congresses, the preference for annual meetings was also acknowledged. Details for the meetings for 2007 and after were to be finalised later.

### Any Other Business

An International Postgraduate Research Conference will be conducted on 16-18 March 2006 in Ankara, Turkey by Middle East Technical University. This annual International needs better coordination with the Postgraduate Research Conference usually conducted by the University of Salford. Better coordination of future CIB Endorsed Student Chapters' events will be discussed in communication with the Secretariat.

Common membership problems across international CIB Student Chapters were raised. The students only become members in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> years of their study period and their big questions refer to members' benefits. It was agreed to initiate a discussion on this matter amongst the Student Chapters by email.

Exploration of funding options through e.g. European Union and/or CIB to support collaborative research activities were discussed.

Dr Amaratunga of TG53 was invited to identify academic research directors, working alongside the existing Student Chapters, as future members of the task group and to invite them to engage in the meeting in Hong Kong in 2006.

### Additional Information

For additional information about the CIB W089 meetings please contact the Coordinators:

- Prof. Tony Sidwell at [a.sidwell@qut.edu.au](mailto:a.sidwell@qut.edu.au)
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You can find more information on the activities of CIB W089 at [www.cibworld.nl](http://www.cibworld.nl)  
Search under Databases/CIB Commissions.  
Click on Commissions and type W089 in the search field.