



CIB NEWS ARTICLE

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Around the Task Groups and Working Commissions

W101 – Spatial Planning and Infrastructure Development

Report on the Commission held in September 2005 in Tokyo, Japan



by

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Introduction

CIB Working Commission W101 on "Spatial Planning and Infrastructure Development" held an annual meeting on September 29 2005 in Tokyo, Japan in conjunction with the SB05 conference on Sustainable Building. Items on the agenda included revision of the Scope and objectives and work program and planned output for 2005-2006. A special session was dedicated to the Japanese concept of "Bonsai City" which introduces a new approach to the definition of a Sustainable City.



Group photo of meeting participants

Revised Scope and Objectives

As the tidal wave of global trends such as borderless economy or global warming sweep across the world, terms like "sustainability", "partnership" and "urban

renaissance", are used differently to describe and explain phenomena and responses taking place in different cities and/or countries. But there is a broad commonality of concerns that need to be addressed worldwide. These relate to those fundamental factors necessary for urban sustainability, and a clear analysis of them would be the essential starting point for the work of W101.

In this context, the major concerns of W101 will be:

- to explore and further understand both the similarities and diversities of the issues as they relate to city planning and urban space, and explore ways in which the concepts of spatial planning and infrastructure development can be developed to deliver solutions required in different cities.
- to discuss on how infrastructure should be rethought and re-examined in relation to sustainability, for instance, from disaster prevention point of view, and to discuss on the infrastructure of urban places on spatial terms for suitable urban form and structure.

By addressing these issues, W101 will contribute to:

- the achievement and maintenance of sustainable cities
- place making by cities
- effective urban regeneration
- the adoption of integrated planning systems

Work Programme

W101 will concentrate on the following two issues:

- extending the concept of urban sustainability; what is the suitable methodology of planning to keep the balance of growth requirements and limitations.
- infrastructure development for sustainable cities: how should the term "infrastructure" be thought of and applied in responding to the global trends to which cities are subjected, and how should the role of infrastructure be rethought and re-examined in relation to sustainability.
- spatial planning; what is the actual and potential



role of spatial planning

CIB Secretary General, Dr. Wim Bakens addressing the audience

Planned Output

Proceedings from meetings will be published, and where possible, the results will be consolidated in the form of a book to be published.

Research and discussion will be conducted on the following themes:

- Extending the Concept of Urban Sustainability.
- Infrastructure Development for Sustainable Cities.

As to the 1st theme, unique and explicit concepts of urban sustainability, including the "Bonsai City" will be developed.

The results of the research and discussion will be summarized in order to aim at editing a book

The Japanese Concept of "Bonsai City"

A special session was dedicated to "Bonsai City – a new keyword for sustainability from traditional art of planting to art of planning", with Dr. Yasushi Asami (University of Tokyo, Japan) as the moderator.

Bonsai, or potted plant, is a Japanese traditional art of planting a tree in a pot. A Bonsai tree should be managed well in limited space to maintain its beauty in spite of its natural growth and change. Endeavour, technology and wisdom of how to harmonize with natural growth and change, how to effectively use the

limited space, and how to keep it beautiful as an art, are required here.

A city is often compared to living things, as it continues to grow and change autonomously. Planners often attempt to directly plan and control a city as if they could handle it all by themselves. However, with the limitations of environmental capacity, energy resources like a Bonsai pot, should we consider that future cities would be much more needed to be managed carefully than before, while respecting natural growth and change? Moreover, beauty and attractiveness is also needed as if an artistic creature. We must seek to the sustainable growth model which is applicable to, not only small towns but also mega cities.



BONSAI CITY

Bonsai plant or the living city

After Dr. Asami's introduction to the "Bonsai City" concept, the following presentations were given:

- "Sustainable Development for Urban Regeneration in Tokyo Bay Area: Brownfield Developments with Effective Energy Utilization" by Dr. Miki Muraki
- "Trends and Indicators for Monitoring the Sustainable Development of Urban Environment on the Basis of the TISSUE Research Project" by Dr. Tarja Häkkinen
- "Importance of Sustainable City Policy to Control Locations of Superstores: Towards Compact Urban Form like Bonsai" by Mr. Tatsuo Akashi
- "Four Dimensional Cities, Towards an Urban Paradigm Shift" by Ms. Valeria Serrano.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of W101 will take place on September 6 2006, at University of College London, UK, in conjunction with the COBRA 2006 conference.

Additional Information

For other information on W101 and its future meetings, please contact one of the Coordinators at:

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You can find more information on the activities of CIB W101 at www.cibworld.nl
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