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Pro-Active Approach – Priority Theme 1

Sustainable Construction

CIB and iiSBE Sponsor 2007 Conferences on Sustainable Building and Construction

by

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The International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction (CIB) and the International Initiative for a Sustainable Built Environment (iiSBE) are pleased to announce the launch of a series of more than twelve international conferences on sustainable building in 2007. These events will provide an important focus for sustainable building in the relevant countries or regions, and will also serve as precursors to the global SB08 conference to be held in Melbourne in November, 2008.

A Brief History

In 1994, CIB held an international green building conference in London, UK. As a part of the international Green Building Challenge process, now operated by 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 SB07 Events

In November of 2005, CIB and iiSBE issued a call for 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. The proposal
call closed on February 15, 2006, and attracted thirteen proposals, including the following locations:

- Alexandria, Egypt
- Auckland / Wellington, New Zealand
- Belfast, UK
- Calgary and Edmonton, Canada
- Glasgow, UK
- Hong Kong, China
- Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Lisbon, Portugal
- Malmö, Sweden
- Prague, Czech Republic
- Rome, Italy
- Seoul, Korea
- Toronto, Canada

All of these conferences are independently organized and managed, but they will follow a common theme and they will all follow certain criteria pertaining to the review of papers and case study submissions, to ensure high quality. In addition, each event will produce a paper on the state-of-the-art in sustainable building in the region covered by the conference. These papers, and some of the best papers from each event, will be presented at the global event in Melbourne in 2008.

A meeting of interested parties was held in Wageningen, the Netherlands, in early April of 2006, and final proposals are expected by July 1.

**Additional Information**

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

**SB07 Website**

On behalf of CIB and iiSBE a designated website is being developed at [www.sb07.org](http://www.sb07.org) that is to coordinate the provision of information about all SB07 conferences.