May 2006

Around the Task Groups and Working Commissions

W089 - Building Research and Education / TG53 - Postgraduate Research Training in Building and Construction / CIB Student Chapters

Meeting Report held in Hong Kong, China, April 2006

by

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In conjunction with the 2006 BEAR Conference a smaller joint meeting took place with representative of CIB W089 – Building Research and Education and TG53 – Postgraduate Research Training in Building and Construction, and a number of CIB Endorsed Student Chapters. This article presents a brief meeting report.

W089 2006 BEAR Conference

The BEAR 2006 conference was widely acknowledged to have been a very successful gathering of high quality researchers and representatives from CIB members around the world. More than 110 fully authored and refereed papers were published and presented making this the second largest W089 gathering to date and one of its most successful. The value of the student chapters exchange was acknowledged. Francis Wong and the organising committee were congratulated for their achievement in organising an excellent event on behalf of HKPU and the CIB.

Report of TG53 Issues

A Report was tabled of recent TG53 activities that included details of work progress in the form of workshops and presentations at:

- 2005 International Postgraduate research Conference in Salford
- 2005 QUT Research Week in Brisbane
- 2006 International Postgraduate Research Conference in Delft
- Workshop at the University of Moratuwa in Sri Lanka

In addition details were given of six research methodology guides that had been produced on:

- Paper and report writing skills
- Communication and presentation skills
- Personal development, professional competence judgement and confidence
- Planning, organising and time management
- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Team work and leadership
W089 Work Program

A proposal was made by Mel Lees of CEBE at the University of Salford of the desirability of gaining CIB endorsement for the new Journal of Education in the Built Environment (JEBE). This journal was having a launch event at BEAR 2006 and had commenced publication. It was also publishing a special issue of 6 papers from amongst those published at BEAR 2006. The meeting endorsed the proposal in principle and agreed to review the decision in Cape Town in 2007 once a pattern of papers published over 12 months had been established.

Future Meetings

A joint meeting is to take place in Cape Town to include the Sri Lankan local host of BEAR 2008 and representatives of the W089 and TG53, TG55 and TG63.

Richard Haigh from the University of Salford presented a proposal for a conference in the first quarter of 2008 in Sri Lanka to be jointly organised by the University of Salford, the Universities of Moratuwa and Ruhuna in Sri Lanka.

The themes of the conference would include: building and construction, sustainability, construction education, research management and training and disaster management related sub-themes. The latter sub-theme would be a particular dimension of this BEAR conference to reflect the context of a conference in Sri Lanka.

The conference would embrace joint meetings and input from W089, TG53, TG55 - Smart and Sustainable Built Environments and TG63 - Disaster Management. The conference would be endorsed by a number of organisations including: CEBE, the RICS, and professional institutions from Sri Lanka. The conference would include reports from major international aid related projects including the EURASIA project.

Student Chapter Issues

Representatives of four of the 17 CIB student chapters were present at the meeting. Detailed presentations were made by groups representing the Hong Kong University, Hong Kong Polytechnic University and Salford Student Chapters.

The HKU chapter presented a detailed picture of their work including of their contribution to the World Sustainable Building Conference in Tokyo 2005.