



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.

June 2006

Around the Task Groups and Working Commissions

TG59 – People in Construction

Introducing the New Coordinator



Ms. Robyn Gordon

The Chair of CIB Programme Committee appointed Ms. Robyn Gordon the new Coordinator of CIB TG59. She is the successor of Ms. Jill Wells who has decided to step down as per May 2006. Below follows her short CV.

Experience

Robyn Gordon is an organization development and change expert with specific expertise in skills and learning related topics.

Her key principal activities include strategic planning, design of career promotion programs, project management, training programs design, collection and analysis of labour market information, communications, and the establishment of governance policies. Robyn is recognized for her ability to create and implement strategic visions with concrete results and has a flair for building broad-based partnerships.

From 2001 Robyn is the president of Linkages Consulting, Ottawa, Canada.

Robyn participated in the creation of the Canadian Software Human Resource Council's Occupational Skill Profile Model for the software industry and the Conference Board of Canada's Employability Skills Model. She has approached capacity building from

both a developed and developing country perspective, with experience in the United States and Canada, as well as Africa and Asia. She has worked for national Governments, International Organizations, NGOs and Academia.

Coordinator's Statement

From inception the goal of TG59 has been to create a committee that would focus on "people" issues related to the construction industry. The Task Group is a joint effort between the CIB and the International Labour Office (ILO), recognizing the overlap of the interests of the two organizations.

The focus of the Task Group is the social and labour issues in construction research that impact both developed and developing countries. It brings together two groups of researchers: those concerned with securing improvements in the performance of the construction industry (the main objective of many in CIB) and those whose interest is to improve the lives of people working in the industry (the objective of ILO).

During the last gathering of the TG59 at the ASCE/CIB Leadership and Management Conference on the Bahamas a number of recurring themes appeared during discussion on relevant research:



- skills shortages
- labour migration
- health, safety and welfare issues
- motivation
- the need for change in attitude towards productivity, safety, leadership, and project resource management
- training and development
- automation and construction technology developments and their impact on the skills and knowledge requirements
- knowledge management

See also the separate news article with a [report](#) from this meeting.

Many issues facing the construction industry cross borders. By identifying and addressing these issues and by helping to define the skill requirements of the industry the TG59 can play an important role in improving the quality of current construction education and training.

Robyn: my goal is to create an environment that embraces partnership, acknowledges best practices and draws upon the experience of the international community. It is my belief that in this kind of environment we will be able to create a strong base of research relevant to both the developed and developing world. To be successful we will need to engage all stakeholders, welcoming representatives from academia, government and business to the TG59 table. We will also continue to work with other Task Groups and Working Commissions, in particular with W107 (Construction in Developing Countries) and TG23 (Culture in Construction).

Currently the TG59 is scheduled to participate in the CIB World Building Congress, Construction for Development in Cape Town, South Africa, May 21-25, 2007. We will announce other opportunities to share in the work of the TG59 as they emerge.

Additional Information

For additional information about the CIB TG59 meetings please contact the Coordinator: Robyn Gordon at: robyn.gordon@linkages.ca.

You can find more information on the activities of CIB TG59 at www.cibworld.nl/website - section "Databases" - database "Commissions - type TG59 in the search field "Commission number".