



## 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

#### W089 – Building Research and Education

## Report on the CIB W089 Conference: BEAR 2006 held in April 2006, Hong Kong, China



Dr. Francis K.W. Wong

### Background

The CIB W089 International Conference on Building Education and Research 2006 (BEAR 2006) was launched with great success at the Kowloon Shangri-La Hotel, Hong Kong on 10-13 April 2006. The Conference was jointly organized by the Research Centre for Construction and Real Estate Economics and Research Centre for Construction Innovation, Department of Building and Real Estate, Faculty of Construction and Land Use, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University in collaboration with the CIB Working Commission W089.



Full house participation from 160 conference delegates

BEAR 2006 Conference provided a forum for building and construction practitioners to share their practical experience and successful stories with peers, particularly in the areas of sustainability and innovation; for academics and researchers to disseminate their latest research findings; and for government officials as well as policy-makers to share with the conference delegates about their construction related policies and strategies.

Overwhelming support and participation were received from over 160 local and international delegates from more than 16 countries, making this the second largest W089 gathering to date and one of its most successful. The Conference was inaugurated by an opening speech by Mr Yue Chi-hang, JP, Director, Architectural Services Department, The Government of the HKSAR, followed by a keynote speech delivered by Prof Roger Flanagan, The University of Reading, UK on exploring the competitiveness and profitability of the construction sector. Altogether, over 110 fully authored and refereed papers were published and presented, covering the following four main themes:

- Education in the Built Environment;
- Construction Project Management;
- Construction Technology and Innovation; and
- Sustainable Development in Construction.



*Mr Yue Chi-hang delivering his opening speech and Prof Roger Flanagan giving his keynote speech*

### **Joint Meeting of W089, TG53 and International CIB Student Chapters**

A joint meeting of W089 BEAR (Building Education and Research), TG53 (Postgraduate Research Training in Building and Construction) and International CIB Student Chapters was also held in the afternoon of 11 April 2006 as part of the Conference. The commission meeting offered a great opportunity for delegates from CIB member organisations to discuss collaborations, future work programs, meetings and conference schedules for the commission, task group and student chapters. The meeting was connected with a research workshop on "Research Methodology" that the TG53 task group organized with a collection of student chapters.

A separate article on CIB Student Chapters was published in the previous newsletter 2006/4 and can be downloaded [here](#).

At the end of the conference, Prof Martin Betts, CIB W089 Joint Co-ordinator, announced that the next CIB W089 BEAR Conference will be held in the first quarter of 2008 in Sri Lanka to be organized by the University of Salford in the UK, in collaboration with the University of Moratuwa and the University of Ruhuna in Sri Lanka.

### **Conference Dinner and Technical Visits**

In addition to academic presentations and discussions, a delightful conference dinner with full house participation from delegates was held at the Hong Kong Jockey Club, Shatin on 12 April 2006. Two technical visits were also arranged on the last day of the conference for delegates to experience and discover the building designs and construction practices in Hong Kong. One group made a trip to the Hong Kong Housing Authority Exhibition Centre and a public housing construction site in Kwai Chung, to obtain an insight into the prefabrication technology. Another group visited The Wisdom Path, an outdoor

wooden replica of the centuries-old Heart Sutra erected near the Giant Buddha on Lantau Island.

Prof Francis Wong, Chairman of the Organizing Committee would like to express his heartfelt gratitude to all the members of Conference Organizing Committee for their generous contributions in organizing such an excellent event. He also wishes to extend his appreciation to all the delegates, reviewers and session chairmen for their contributions to the success of this Conference.



*Technical visit to The Wisdom Path*

### **Conference website**

[www.bear2006.net/conference/](http://www.bear2006.net/conference/)

### **Proceedings**

A separate article on the conference proceedings was published in the previous newsletter 2006/4 and can be downloaded [here](#).