



## 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.

September 2006

### Around the Task Groups and Working Commissions

#### TG63 – Disasters and the Built Environment

## Introducing the New Task Group and Coordinators

During its meeting in March 2006 in Ankara, the CIB Programme Committee took the first steps toward establishing a new Task Group, TG63, on Disasters and the Built Environment, and appointed Drs. Richard Haigh as its first coordinator. At its next meeting in September the PC is asked to also confirm the appointment of Cassidy Johnson as the represented joint coordinator.

A short description of the Task Group and a brief introduction of the two joint coordinators follows.

### Scopes and Objectives

The CIB Task Group aims to stimulate ideas for future research by exploring the range of perspectives from which the building and construction industry is able to contribute towards improved resilience to disasters and by facilitating the dissemination of the existing knowledgebase.

*To this effect, the Task Group will address the following objectives:*

- Define a more expansive view of the construction lifecycle that encompasses the need to anticipate, assess, prevent, prepare, respond to and recover from disruptive challenges, whether they might stem from natural or human-made disasters
- Create a web portal for sharing and disseminating knowledge about resilience and disruptive challenges for land, property and construction professionals
- Enhance knowledge and raise awareness among practitioners and researchers, of the linkage between good planning, design, construction and operation on the one hand, and disaster prevention and resilience on the other hand
- Identify future research and work requirements relating to construction and resilience to disasters

- Arrange symposia and workshops to facilitate wider discussions of relevant research pertaining to the subject area
- Encourage collaboration and joint projects among members and other interested parties

The Task Group will aim to establish a close co-operation with i-Rec, an already existing international network dedicated to research and information for post-disaster reconstruction.

### Work Programme

The Task Group will stimulate and facilitate cooperation between research institutes with a focus on construction, resilience and disasters. The Task Group will have annual meetings and develop and maintain a Knowledgebase Portal: an infrastructure for developing, sharing and disseminating knowledge about disaster management in land, property and construction.

Through a series of workshops a more expansive view of the construction lifecycle will be defined that encompasses the need to anticipate, assess, prevent, prepare, respond to and recover from disasters. This will be used to identify and report on research gaps to be addressed by the building and construction community in order to develop resilience to disasters.

The Task Group will meet at relevant Conferences and Events, and where appropriate will facilitate workshops and sessions on pre- and post- disaster facilities design and management. These include CIB Conferences in Rome (October 2006), South Africa (May 2007), Sri Lanka (February, 2008) and New Zealand (April 2008).

### Planned Output

- 2007: Knowledgebase Portal
- 2008: Report on Research Gaps
- 2009: Final TG Report

## Start-Up Meeting

An open start-up meeting will be held in Rome on October 19, 2006 at 17.00, in the Jolly Hotel via Veneto, in conjunction with the International CIB Symposium: Construction in the 21st Century - Local and Global Challenge.

## Introducing the TG63 Joint Coordinators

### Dr. Richard Haigh



Dr. Richard Haigh is Co-Director of Postgraduate Research Studies at the Research Institute of the Built and Human Environment and Co-Programme Director of the BSc Construction Management at the School of Construction and Property Management, University of Salford, UK.

Below follows a short CV of Dr. Haigh.

2005 to 2006	Joint Investigator, Inspiring Sri Lankan reNewal and Development (ISLAND), RICS Education Trust Fund; Joint Project Investigator, European and Asian Infrastructure Advantage (EURASIA), EU Asia Link Programme; Joint Project Coordinator, Construction and Women, European Social Fund
2003 to 2006	Lecturer, University of Salford, UK
2003	PhD, University of Salford
2002 to 2003	Research Fellow, NHS Balanced Scorecard in Facilities Management Project, University of Salford
2000 to 2001	Research Assistant, EPSRC SPICE FM Project, University of Salford
1998 to 2000	Research Student, DETR SPICE Project, University of Salford
1998	BSc (Hons) Construction Management
1994 to 1998	Management Trainee / Construction Manager, Bovis Europe

### Dr. Cassidy Johnson



Cassidy Johnson holds a PhD obtained at Université de Montreal, Canada, specialising in planning and organisational design related to post-disaster reconstruction, particularly in developing countries. She is co-founder of i-Rec.

Below follows a short CV of Cassidy Johnson.

2001-2006	PhD Candidate, Université de Montreal Research on temporary housing after disasters: 1999 earthquakes in Turkey
Since 2001	Member of i-Rec research and information for reconstruction, Coordinator of conferences
2005-2006	Course Lecturer, McGill University
2004-2006	Chargé de cours, Univ. de Montreal
2004	Research Intern, Istanbul Technical University
2003-2006	Part-time faculty, Concordia University
2001	M.Arch McGill University
1999	BA Urban Studies, Concordia University

### Additional Information

For additional information about the CIB TG63 meetings please contact the Coordinators:

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Cassidy Johnson at [Cassidy.Johnson@umontreal.ca](mailto:Cassidy.Johnson@umontreal.ca)

You can find more information on the activities of CIB TG63 at [www.cibworld.nl](http://www.cibworld.nl). Search under Databases/CIB Commissions. Click on Commissions and type TG63 in the search field.