



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.

February 2007

Forthcoming Meeting / CIB Co-Sponsored Event

2nd International Conference on Quality Chain Management

30-31 May 2007 Stockholm, Sweden



Introduction

The 2nd conference on Quality Chain Management will focus on international common understanding of trendsetting interests and major incentives towards chain integration and successfully managing better co-operation among players involved. The objective is to generate learning effects – particularly for executives and practitioners.

The first conference on Quality Chain Management, which took place in The Hague in October 2006 and was arranged by PSIBouw in co-operation with BQR and the Dutch Construction Client Forum, confirmed that chain integration – when driven by a shared vision on the total end-result – is rewarding for all players involved and improves quality of both products and services in built facilities.

How to manage chain integration? How to create a shared vision and co-operation among all players?

The Conference Programme will provide discussions in four main themes:

- Driving Forces and Management tools
- Procurement Strategies for new Co-operation, Partnering and Alliancing
- New Roles and Competences of Players
- Supporting Tools and Information Technologies

Each of these will be addressed by keynote- and best practice presentations and treated in a panel session. Executive stakeholders within the chain will be selected to form the panels. The themes are further developed in a separate discussion paper.

Conference Themes and/or Topics

Theme 1. Driving Forces and Management Tools



How to find and sustain drivers for change? Incentives can come from end-users and society at large – politicians, finance, public opinion etc – where the construction client has a key role as an agent for change. New technologies can create strong driving forces in enhancing an innovative climate. To be self-sustaining, the driving forces must ultimately be based on commercial incentives.

Once a driving force is generated a sound management is necessary. Procurement is the key-factor to reform. An integrated approach and a shared vision of the total end result are critical success factors. The urgency of focusing on end-users is strongly echoed in many countries. Long-term quality guarantees after delivery, life cycle cost and best practices with KPI's (Key Performance Indicators) have proven to be other interesting approaches.

Theme 2. Procurement Strategies for New Forms of Co-operation, Partnering and Alliancing

Procurement is the key to establishing and rewarding new forms of collaboration that include mutual commitments, common goals and incentives. Performance-based requirements have also stimulated new commercial relationships. Client behaviour is important. Public client leadership and the use of public purchasing power has been a critical success factor for change in many countries.

Various forms of partnering used in single projects are developing towards "strategic partnering", which may be formalised in "framework contracts" with selected groups of suppliers for a defined period. Partnering forms vary. Some countries focus on co-operative relationships while others consider partnering as a further step with measures such as a "partnering charter" or even special forms of contracts. Alliancing is an even stronger form which can include a jointly owned company.

Theme 3. New Roles and Competences of Players

Client-driven changes and new strategies for procurement towards chain integration, focusing on end-user and sustainability, will challenge traditional roles within the whole sector. New demands and new technologies, i.e. Life Cycle Cost approaches and 3D-modelling, require new competences for application and practical solutions. Management skills and tools are needed to coordinate the different processes for product quality, ICT and environmental issues etc at all stages. At the same time procurement strategies based on performance and value as outcome terms will enhance innovations among all players that will stimulate an innovative climate within the whole sector. A new focus on processes instead of single project attitudes will also increase the benefit and value of improvements within companies. In many countries, a rich store of best practices and visionary

approaches, accompanied by increasing interest in research and innovation, is now emerging.

Theme 4. Supporting Tools and Information Technologies

Appropriate supporting tools are required to improve quality chain management. Tools must be developed – but also evaluated in terms of delivering quality within time and budget frames, commitment, efficiency and productivity for all players involved. Sound use of standards, common agreements, general contracts and guidelines for long term guarantees are examples.

The urgency of applying tools using information technologies (ICT) is recognised worldwide. "Digital Construction" has many applications, from the use of 3D-modelling and simulation at earlier stages and different applications during construction to use in facility management. A number of solutions have been developed for communication with clients and end-users as well as among the players in the supply chain during the briefing, design and construction processes.

In order to secure sustainability a common "language" is necessary. Therefore the worldwide ISO-standard "Information for Construction Protocol" (IFC) is very important, as is the support given by the International Alliance for Interoperability (IAI).

The Conference is arranged by The Swedish Council for Constructing Excellence, BQR in co-operation with the Swedish Construction Client Association and the Dutch programme PSIBouw with support by the Swedish Construction Committé and in association with the International Construction Client Forum, ICCF.



Registration

Please use the enclosed [form](#) for registration. Your registration will be confirmed together with an invoice from BQR by mail. Last day for registration is April 20th 2007.

Contacts for Further Information

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Invitation and Discussion paper please download [here](#).