



## 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.

October 2007

### Around the Task Groups and Working Commissions

#### TG58 - Clients and Construction Innovation

### Introducing the New Joint Coordinator

#### Prof. Dr Aminah Robinson Fayek



At its meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark on 7-8 October 2007, the CIB Board appointed Prof. Dr. Aminah Robinson Fayek the new Joint Coordinator of TG58 on Clients and Construction Innovation.

#### Current Position

NSERC Associate Industrial Research Chair in Construction Engineering and Management, Professor, Hole School of Construction Engineering, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

#### Tertiary Education

- 1993-96** Doctor of Philosophy, Construction Engineering and Project Management, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia.
- 1991-92** Master of Applied Science, Construction Engineering and Management, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada.
- 1986-90** Bachelor of Engineering, Civil Engineering, McGill University, Montreal, Canada.

#### Research Interests

Dr. Robinson Fayek has developed a core research program in the development and application of fuzzy

logic techniques for use in intelligent decision support systems, to help design and construction personnel improve the cost, schedule, and productivity performance of their projects. Her current focus is on developing hybrid systems that incorporate fuzzy logic with other artificial intelligence and modelling techniques (such as artificial neural networks, expert systems, and simulation models) to overcome the limitations of each, and to provide more robust modelling approaches.

Dr. Robinson Fayek holds an NSERC Associate Industrial Research Chair in Construction Engineering and Management, which is a jointly funded position by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, a consortium of over 25 companies in the Alberta construction industry, and the University of Alberta. The Associate Chair is part of an overall Chair program that is currently in its third 5-year term (January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2011), with a budget of approximately \$4 million and additional in-kind contributions from industrial sponsors exceeding \$5 million. The mandate of the Chair is to carry out industrially relevant research to help solve problems and to deliver innovation to the Canadian construction industry in the form of technology transfer, research, education, and training. One of Dr. Robinson's primary research focuses is on client-related issues, as several of the industrial sponsors of the Chair are leading construction clients.

Her research has found numerous practical applications with leading members of the construction industry, including the Construction Owners Association of Alberta (COAA), a group of owners in the oil, gas, and oilsands industry. Her research with the COAA has contributed to the development of a number of construction industry best practices related to (1) construction apprentices' utilization and training (2) managing construction field rework, and (3) measuring the performance of major industrial projects. Her current research with construction clients



is addressing the issues of (1) construction trades foremen performance evaluation and skills development, (2) construction trades absenteeism, and (3) increasing the effectiveness of the client's role as a managing contractor on major projects. She is also one of several researchers across Canada participating in an initiative of the Canadian Construction Innovation Council on benchmarking the performance of the Canadian construction industry, with an initial focus on public sector clients.

Dr. Robinson Fayek serves as an Assistant Specialty Editor in Quantitative Methods in the ASCE Journal of Construction Engineering and Management.

### **Additional Information**

For additional information about the CIB TG58 please contact the Coordinators:  
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You can find more information on the activities of CIB TG58 at [www.cibworld.nl](http://www.cibworld.nl)  
Search under Databases/CIB Commissions.  
Click on Commissions and type TG58 in the search field.