



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.

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Forthcoming Meeting / CIB Co-Sponsored Event

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NEWSLETTER



CONNECTED VIABLE LIVEABLE

SB08 Program Takes Shape

World SB 08 Melbourne's program is developing around the theme of pathways to a connected, viable and liveable planet. The Conference's Organising Committee, in consultation with the International Advisory Committee, the International Scientific Committee and the Auspicing Societies, is finalising a program that engages the diverse stakeholder groups in the built environment industry, and showcases the latest scientific and technical developments worldwide.

There will be varied opportunities for information exchange, including plenary keynote sessions, special forums on selected topics, reports on regional policies and green development, parallel scientific sessions,

poster sessions, and presentations from the Sustainable Building Challenge (see below for full story on the SB Challenge).

The scientific and technical stream (oral and poster sessions) will consist of more than 800 papers on a broad range of topics. Following an extensive review process, the International Scientific Committee will allocate the papers for oral presentations in seven parallel sessions, or for poster presentations. The review process is coordinated by the co-chairs of the International Scientific Committee, with assistance from a sub-group of Australia-based committee members, and involving international experts and members of the Committee. All accepted papers will be included in the conference proceedings.

The International Scientific Committee is also drawing up a rigorous selection criteria for outstanding papers for post-conference publication in archival form.

The SB08 program will also offer special forums to explore the most important issues and topics that are relevant to industry, built environment professionals, and the public policy sector, and that have the greatest potential to facilitate sustainability transformation. By bringing together the scientific community with industry practitioners and policy makers, SB 08 Melbourne hopes to help accelerate the transfer of technology and the adoption of sustainable development concepts and practices.

SB08 Key Themes

Special Forum topics will include the role of assessment systems in market transformation, greening the workforce (i.e. education and training), and sustainable development in developing countries, among others. Below are some of the key topic descriptions, and the full list will be posted on the website.

- **Achieving Sustainability Targets.**
This session will examine how sustainability targets, including carbon-neutral developments, could be achieved through design, materials and techniques, using a case study as a demonstration.
- **Sustainable Urban Refurbishment.**
New buildings and major refurbishments have been leading the way to sustainable building. But even if all new building and major refurbishments went green, it would change only 2% of the built environment each year. This session will present sustainable refurbishment strategies and techniques to dramatically improve the sustainability of the existing built environment.
- **Accelerating Change and Innovation Towards Sustainability.**
Due to global warming and humanity's lifestyle trends that exacerbate our ecological footprint, the current rate of change to address their underlying causes will not match up to the challenge. This session will explore accelerated pathways towards sustainability.
- **Hyper-urbanisation: Triple Bottom Line Solutions.**
Hyper-urbanisation in Asia-Pacific and South America is creating the planet's economic, environmental and social flashpoints. In 2008, for the first time in human history, more people will live in urban than in rural areas. This session will explore possible contributions of the built environment industry to address profound social and environmental concerns in the region's mega-cities.
- **Greening the Supply Chain: Life Cycle Assessments.**
Environmentally-responsible selection and specification of building and construction

products do not only reduce the ecological footprint of the built environment, but can also improve the manufacturing and raw materials extraction processes of these products. This session will explore the role of national life cycle inventory (LCI) databases and life cycle assessment (LCA) techniques in greening the product supply chain.

- **Organizational Transformation.**
Employees will think and behave responsibly towards society and the environment if a culture of sustainability pervades the organization. In the building and property industry, such a culture is reflected in the types of products and services on offer. SB08 will present international case studies of how organizations have fostered sustainable thinking among employees.
- **Financing Sustainability.**
This session will explore the issues and ways to reflect the value of sustainable an high performance built environment to the market, and to encourage innovative financing schemes in their planning, delivery, operations and management, and refurbishment. It will also examine how financial institutions are incorporating sustainability criteria in their products, and in their investment and lending practices.

Building Regulations

The peak committee of the world's leading building regulatory agencies, in conjunction with the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB), is partnering with SB08 Melbourne to present the latest international thinking and practices on regulations that promote sustainable building.



ABCB Executive Director, Ivan Donaldson, has announced that the Inter-Jurisdictional Regulatory Collaboration Committee (IRCC) will design two special sessions at SB08, at which six leading international regulators would examine the role of regulations in improving the sustainability performance of buildings. ABCB will sponsor the

attendance of the speakers, who will be drawn from both Government and industry in major building markets.

A recent study by the United Nations Environment Program's Sustainable Building and Construction Initiative (UNEP SBCI), found that among the policy instruments that promote sustainable buildings, regulatory action was the most cost-effective policy option available to Governments.

IRCC aims to advance a common understanding of the international regulatory environment and to facilitate a

more open environment of inter-jurisdictional commerce in the areas of building design and construction. The SB08 sessions being designed by IRCC will examine the regulatory regimes employed by different countries, and analyse how effective these regulations.

SB08 Student Sessions

SB08 Melbourne is dedicating special sessions for undergraduate and post-graduate research students in the field of sustainable building to encourage fresh thinking that go beyond sustainable building.

The Student Sessions are hosted by the University of Melbourne Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, and will be held on September 19-21, before the main Conference.

The sessions are a follow-through of the Student Session of SB05 Tokyo, which called for education and research to help shift students' thinking from harm minimisation to maximising benefit from the dynamics between the built environment and natural environments. The SB05 Tokyo student's manifesto was summarised in the formula: Sustainable Building = Green Building + Symbiosis.

The SB08 Student Sessions will provide opportunities for students to explore new approaches towards creating a true symbiosis. Students will present their research and workshop their ideas with more experienced researchers and educators. They will also be challenged to think creatively about the issues of systems, symbiosis, diversity and resilience through an international student design competition and exhibition.

SB08 Information

The full 4th edition of the SB08 Newsletter can be downloaded [here](#) and in addition to the items in this news article addresses the following items:

- SB Challenge 2008: Team Preparations in Full Swing
- Asia-Pacific Partnership projects to be showcased at SB08
- Korea Green Building Council joins as auspicing body
- ARUP Achieving Sustainability Targets for Buildings and Cities
- Successful Regional SB07s Setting the Scene for World SB08

Additional Information

For further information about the conference and final registration, please visit the designated website at www.sb08melbourne.com.

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