



CIB NEWS ARTICLE

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in Building and Construction

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From a CIB Co-Sponsored Event

Report of WCPM 2007 "International World of Construction Project Management, Delft, The Netherlands in October 2007"

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The Conference

Conference Report of the CIB sponsored International World of Construction Project Management WCPM2007 in Delft, The Netherlands from 24-26 October 2007. About 60 professionals and academics in the field of construction project management participated in the conference, that took place from October 24 through 26 at the Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands. 16 Countries on 4 continents were represented, so this conference was truly international.

The conference was not particularly big, but that probably contributed to the good atmosphere and quality of contacts and discussions. The exchange of knowledge, ideas, visions, problems and solutions proved to be very inspiring. Many new interesting contacts were made and existing relations were strengthened.



Conference Participants

Each morning and afternoon started with a keynote session. Prof. Pollalis, Prof. Sexton, Prof. Winch, Prof. de Ridder and Prof. Wamelink respectively gave the right example with their thorough, vivid and inspiring presentations.

Main Conference Conclusions

The contribution of participants mainly focused on several aspects of changing the industry. Especially the keynote speakers were optimistic in this perspective. The construction industry is not backward like many assumed. The construction industry is likely to transfer into a high-tech industry and seems to be very innovative. Only this innovation takes place in little steps on project level as so called incremental innovation. Besides this, innovation seems to be hidden.

These kind of innovations can't be translated into new rules or standards for the whole sector what leads to the wrong image of the sector. So it takes time before incremental innovation leads to major changes and a fundamental transformation of the sector. Several participants stressed important aspects of process innovation, like the relation with sustainability, performance measuring and the role of education structures in the sector.

Innovation Day

Parallel to the conference the Innovation Day took place on Thursday afternoon. This was mainly a Dutch-speaking occasion, with more than 100 participants from the industry. During this afternoon it seems like the Dutch industry is still wrestling with its image. The participants plead for changing the culture, for more trust between the different participants. But there was no commitment how to achieve that.

Excursion

Thursday afternoon an excursion to Rotterdam took place. While some people rather have visited the old city centers of Delft, Den Haag or Amsterdam, Rotterdam is interesting from a modern architectural point of view and the many construction projects going on.



Cube houses in Rotterdam cause disorientation

During the excursion we didn't lose too many people and we all came together again in Dudok coffeehouse, a building designed by a famous Dutch architect. After that some people from the Innovation Day joined for the conference dinner, which took place on a boat, showing the nice spots of the big port of Rotterdam.

Proceedings

Most of the presented papers and presentations of the keynote speakers can be found at www.wcpm2007.nl/item/papers as a .pdf document.



During the conference the proceedings were distributed via a USB pen.

Additional Information

Any information regarding the conference can be viewed at www.wcpm2007.nl/.

The organizing committee would like to thank the enthusiastic input from the participants, the keynote speakers, the advisory board, the scientific committee and all others that helped making this conference a success.