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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.

Around the Task Groups and Working Commissions
W099 – Safety and Health in Construction


by

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Background

The Working Commission on Safety and Health in Construction (W099) held an International Conference on Construction Safety and Health this past March in Gainesville, Florida, USA. This conference was chaired by Jimmie Hinze, University of Florida and at that time Coordinator of CIB W099. The theme of the conference was Evolution of and Directions in Construction Safety and Health.

Conference Social Activities

The conference began on March 9 and continued through March 11. The ice breaker began with an outdoor feast including fried catfish, fried chicken, and other Southern dishes. The evening culminated with a visit to the “bat house” to observe 50,000 bats leave their home to feed for the night. Sponsors for the conference included Bechtel Corporation, Fluor Corporation, Southern Company, ConocoPhillips, and Bovis Lend Lease. Representatives from each sponsor presented keynote addresses during the conference.

The evening activity for the second day of the conference consisted of a reception at the University of Florida butterfly museum, which featured several unique butterflies from around the globe. Southern dishes were also served. The third day of the conference was also a full day of presentations, which culminated with an evening banquet with a presentation on the Hurricane Katrina disaster and entertainment was provided by a blue grass band. The conference participants shared a considerable amount of valuable information during the conference and took time to enjoy the company of the W099 family.

Conference Conclusions

There were more than 60 conference participants who hailed from twelve different countries. Approximately 55 papers were presented on various topics on construction safety and health. An observation made by several attendees was that the safety and health problems facing specific countries do not appear to be unique, further validating the value of maintaining interactions on a global scale. It was also noted how many developing countries have quickly become sophisticated in matters related to construction safety and health, i.e., we are all speaking the same language when it comes to construction safety and health.
**Proceedings**

The proceedings of the conference are in preparation, will be available as soon as they are finished.

**Additional Information**

For additional information about the CIB W099 please contact the Coordinator: Alistair Gibb
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You also can find more information on the activities of CIB W099 at www.cibworld.nl - section Databases - database Commissions - type W099 in the search field Commission number.