



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.

September 2008

Around the Task Groups and Working Commissions

W070 - Facilities Management and Maintenance

Conference Review CIB W070 Conference on Facilities Management: Healthy and Creative Facilities, June 2008

by

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The biennial CIB W070 conference on Facilities Management took place at Heriot Watt University in Edinburgh, Scotland in June 2008. The theme of the conference was 'Healthy and Creative Facilities'. This was attended by over 120 delegates together with a further 70 delegates who attended on the 'industry day' with the support of the British Institute of Facilities Management (BIFM).

Representation

The following countries were represented at the conference; Australia (3); Brazil (5); China (5); Denmark (3); Finland (5); France (1); Germany (2); Ghana (2); Israel (1); Italy (10); Netherlands (5); New Zealand (1); Nigeria (1); Norway (4); Pakistan (1); Poland (3); Slovenia (3); South Africa (2); Sweden (3); Switzerland (4); Taiwan (1); Uganda (1); UK (26); USA (4). The spread of international countries, particularly those participants travelling a significant distance for the conference, was an encouraging indication of interest. Growing numbers are particularly apparent from Brazil and West Africa. Areas of under-representation include Japan and Benelux regions who would appear to be target participants for the forthcoming conference in 2010.

Themes

The conference papers covered a number of recurring themes as well as some new emerging themes that are attracting particular interest in relation to facilities management. Amongst the more established themes were:

- Information technology and computer-aided FM
- Refurbishment and projects

- Services provision
- Health facilities
- Sustainable housing
- Creativity and the workplace
- Knowledge management in FM
- Maintenance management
- Real Estate Portfolio Management
- Workplace management

New themes, that attracted a lot of interest, were:

- Heritage and culture
- Inclusive and accessible FM
- Indoor air quality (IAQ)
- Environment-behaviour

An additional theme highlighting CIB W070 research activities to industry ('Industry View') helped to inform practitioners in the UK about the scope and depth of FM research. This took place on the final day ensuring that impetus was maintained throughout the three-day event.

Emerging Trends

Two years on from the previous CIB W070 conference, what was evident was the changing thrust of facilities management research which largely reflects the interests of the global FM industry. Greater attention is now being paid to the existing building stock and the challenges of retrofitting sustainable solutions in a manner that is consistent with the conservation of cultural heritage. This continues to represent a challenge to many countries.

Facilities management continues to struggle with imprecise tools for measuring 'output'. This remains by

far the greatest challenge to the profession with a desire to quantify the impact that building operations have on the output of occupants. Much of the presented work suggested a movement away from conventional 'productivity' studies to more subtle measures of output. Such measures included creativity; health and service quality indexes.

CIB W070 has always addressed the area of maintenance management having originated from this domain. Presentations in this area were focused on capital budgeting and performance measurement. The emergence of Private Finance Initiative (PFI) type procurement has given renewed impetus to this area.

Technical Visits

The conference included two weekend technical visits with the focus on heritage buildings in Scotland. The tours included tour commentaries by respected historians and heritage specialists. One visit examined the UNESCO World Heritage Site at New Lanark as well as Rosslyn Chapel (popularised by the Da Vinci Code).



Delegates awaiting the commencement of the CIB W070 Civic Reception, Lothian Chambers

Keynote Speakers

The conference included a keynote presentation by the CIB President, Professor Peter Barrett (Salford University). The presentation served to reinforce the view that facilities management is very much the focus of attention within the construction process. The presentation pointed to new ideas in our understanding of neuroscience and other related fields that are likely to inform facilities management research.

Keynote presentations by Dr Frank Duffy (Visiting professor at MIT), Professor John Swaffield (Chairman of CIBSE) and Professor David Canter formed part of the three-day event.



Delegates at the CIB W070 Civic Reception

Best Student Paper

Best paper for a research student was awarded to Karin Diez from Karlsruhe, Germany for her paper on 'Infrastructure Costs in Hospitals', which was co-authored with Kunibert Lennerts. The paper showed exceptional merit in terms of originality of thought applied to the problem of cost dependencies in complex facilities.

Announcement of Forthcoming Conference

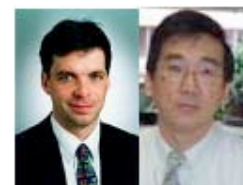
The location of the next CIB W070 Conference 2010 was announced at the closing session. This will be at the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil and will be led by Professor Moacyr E. A. da Graça.

Proceedings

Over 80 papers were presented and incorporated in the published proceedings (CIB No.315) that will be introduced via a separate CIB news article when they are available.

Additional Information

For additional information about the CIB W089 meetings please contact the Coordinators: Danny Shiem Shin Then bessthen@polyu.edu.hk and Edward Finch e.f.finch@hw.ac.uk.



You can find more information on the activities of CIB W089 at www.cibworld.nl/website - section "Databases" – database "Commissions" – type W089 in the search field "Commission number".