Around the Task Groups and Working Commissions

TG53 - Postgraduate Research Training in Building and Construction

Request for a further 18 months extension

By

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To ensure the advancement in built environment research, steps need to be taken to increase the number of researchers and improve their career prospects. Their ability to carry out world-class research depends critically on the availability of skilled researchers and their capacity to produce, transfer and utilise knowledge. In this context, Task Group 53 has provided a necessary framework for such activities in addressing this need to promote the development and transfer of research competencies, consolidate and broaden researchers’ career prospects, and promote excellence.

Projects undertaken by the TGS3 have mainly focused on supporting the Skills Training Requirements of the wider built environment postgraduate researcher community aiming to address:

- The ability to recognise and validate problems
- Original, independent and critical thinking, and the ability to develop theoretical concepts
- A knowledge of recent advances within building and construction
- An understanding of relevant research methodologies and techniques and their appropriate application within building and construction
- The ability to critically analyse and evaluate findings and those of others
- An ability to summarise, document, report and reflect on progress

Progress reports submitted so far illustrated the excellent contribution that the Task group has made in achieving its aims and objectives. Bearing in mind the increased importance of the provision of appropriate research training in the built environment field, Task group carried out the following activities since the production of its last progress report:
A). Workshops
Several international research training workshops were planned and delivered as follows:

- “Research training skills workshop”, in association with CIB W89 : International Conference in Building Education and Research (BEAR 2008), Kandalama, Sri Lanka 10th - 15th February 2008. Facilitators were Kaushal Keraminiyage and Stephen Ruddock from University of Salford UK and Suranga Jayasena from University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
- Staff development workshop – “Presenting at conferences” facilitated by Dr. Richard Haigh, held at Department of Building Economics, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka, September 2008.
- Staff development workshop on “Creating a research profile” facilitated by Prof. Dilanthi Amaratunga, held at Department of Building Economics, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka, September 2008.

B). CIB TG 53 Publication
Selected papers presented by the students at the CIB W89 : International Conference in Building Education and Research (BEAR 2008), Kandalama, Sri Lanka 10th - 15th February 2008 were incorporated within the CIB Student chapter sessions and their papers have just been put together as a CIB publication and will be published in February 2009. This will be a joint initiative between CIB TG53 and CIB TG63.

C). Other initiatives - Collaborations with Asian Institutions
- A competition was held among Sri Lankan undergraduate students, in providing them the opportunity to present their research ideas at BEAR 2008, sponsored by EURASIA project (European and Asian Infrastructure Advantage), International research collaboration between Asia and Europe. The partnership includes: University of Salford, UK; University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka; University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka; Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia; and, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Lithuania. As part of this competition students received sponsorships to take part and to present their work at the BEAR2008 conference. 17 places in total have been offered for students to present their research in BEAR 2008 conference themes
- First ever CIB Student Chapter meeting in South Asia was held in conjunction with CIB TG53 during CIB W89 : International Conference in Building Education and Research (BEAR 2008), Kandalama, Sri Lanka 10th - 15th February 2008
- Sponsored places for undergraduate students

D). TG53 meetings
- February 2008 – as part of BEAR 2008 held in Sri Lanka

Future of CIB TG53

Bearing in mind the increased importance of the provision of appropriate research training in the built environment field, Task group is seeking an extension of further 18 months commencing January 2009. TG 53 has plans to be actively engaged in CIB World Congress 2010 as the postgraduate research coordinator of the CIB and the requested extension will allow the TG to actively take part in the World Congress. Further, there are other activities are also planned, details of which are given below:
A). CIB World Congress 2010 activities
Please refer Appendix 1 which is provided herewith at the end of this report

B). Workshops
At least two international research training workshops are planned as follows:

• April 2009 – in collaboration with CIB W89 and associated Schools of Construction USA in April 2008
• April 2010 – in collaboration with 2010 CIB World Congress (for more details, please refer Appendix 1)

C). Major publication on research training good practice guidelines
A CIB publication outlining frameworks for research training including essential skills and reports of case studies illustrating the best practice will be produced. Call for abstracts for this publication will be published in spring 2009 with an aim to publish the booklet alongside the World Congress.

D). TG53 meetings
• April 2009 – in collaboration with CIB W89 and associated Schools of Construction USA in April 2008
• April 2010 – in collaboration with 2010 CIB World Congress (for more details, please refer Appendix 1)

Additional Information

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Appendix 1

CIB Task Group 53 – Postgraduate Research Training

Call for Papers from Postgraduate researchers in the Built Environment

As part of the CIB World Congress 2010 which will be held from May 10th - 13\textsuperscript{th} 2010, The Lowry, Salford Quays, United Kingdom, a stream of activities dedicated for postgraduate researchers in the built and human environment will be held under the coordination of the CIB TG 53 on postgraduate research training in building and construction, bringing together the International Postgraduate community to present and discuss their research. There will be a dedicated stream of developmental papers for Postgraduate researchers on the themes of World Congress 2010 including skills development organised by the TG53.

There will be a tailor made programme for postgraduate researchers aiming at providing a challenging and stimulating, but also supportive environment, whereby they can present their research and meet other researchers working in similar fields. The content of papers can reflect any aspect of research being undertaken by a postgraduate at any stage of his/her study. Researchers will have the opportunity to gain valuable feedback and contacts, as well as gain an insight into current international research in their field from the experts in the field.

Themes

The broad theme of the Congress is to build a better world by maximising the value delivered to society by construction and the built environment. The theme is broad enough to include the full range of technical, social and managerial topics from within the CIB. Accordingly, papers from the built environment postgraduate researcher community will be accepted within the scope of the CIB Working Commissions and Task Groups which will have representation at the congress. Details of these commissions and task groups are available on the World Congress web site: http://www.cib2010.org/

Abstract submission

The deadline for abstract submission is 16th March 2009. All abstracts are to be submitted online. Accordingly, please create an account in the congress website to initiate the abstract submission process: http://www.cib2010.org/index.php?option=com_user_extended&view=register

After completing the account creation process successfully, you will be directed to the abstract submission page. When you submit your abstract/paper, you will be asked to identify a topic area. In order for you to be eligible for special postgraduate researcher rate and to benefit from a wide range of postgraduate research related world congress activities, please select “TG 53” as your “topic area”.


Special fees for postgraduate researchers

Formal registration is not open at this point, but the fees for postgraduate researchers will be around £260, for taking part in the entire congress. This is a special rate for postgraduate researchers, £200 reduction from the normal fee payable by a CIB member. There is a further reduction of £50 for early bird registrations for postgraduate researchers. It is anticipated that postgraduate researchers will want to take part in the whole event, but nearer the time as the programme firms up, there will be special rates for single day attendance and other packages.

Other postgraduate research related activities at the World Congress

- A series of Postgraduate research skills workshops designed and delivered
- Special award for the best paper written by a Postgraduate researcher to be presented at the World Congress in conjunction with CIB TG 53
- Award for the best presentation by a postgraduate researcher
- CIB Student chapters annual general meeting and networking
- Selected papers will be published as a CIB TG 53 publication

Further details

Further details on CIB World Congress 2010 postgraduate research activities could be obtained from the CIB TG 53 Coordinator as below:

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All technical queries need to be addressed to: Kaushal Keraminiyage, CIB World Congress Technical Team on k.p.keraminiyage@salford.ac.uk