



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.

May 2009

CIB Priority Theme: Sustainable Construction



UNEP SBCI

Sustainable Buildings & Construction Initiative



CIB Partnership with UNEP SBCI

It was recently confirmed that CIB is now an official partner with SBCI.

SBCI is an initiative established by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Partnership is open only to selected organizations.

CIB enters the partnership at an interesting time in the evolution of SBCI, which was originally established to promote sustainable buildings in general and energy efficient (low carbon) buildings in particular.

Since its inception in 2006 SBCI has been working on those issues from several different angles and has also, in some cases, broadened its activities to other related but not specifically climate-focused areas such as green jobs in the construction sector, or sustainable building guidelines in developing countries.

UNEP's view that global warming is set to become increasingly important, has led to a stock-take of progress to date and a proposal to combine UNEP SBCI's unique capacity to provide a harmonising role and present the common voice of the building sector on global issues, with such outputs as a global UN endorsed guideline on energy efficient and low carbon building, against which national policies, rating schemes and other incentives can be benchmarked.

Work is also proposed on policy development relative to climate change and buildings (mitigation and adaptation) that is expected to provide direct advice and support to policy makers on how to support "climate friendly" buildings.

The relevance of CIB partnership is clear. Into the partnership CIB brings a worldwide network of

thousands of experts and hundreds of organizations, all involved in some aspect of building and construction R & D. That is entirely consistent with the worldwide view that UNEP SBCI must take.

WHO WE ARE

The Sustainable Buildings and Construction Initiative (SBCI) was established in 2006 as a partnership between UN and the building sector stakeholders, including architects, material producers, construction companies, property investors and owner, building managers, professional associations and concerned authorities. SBCI counts among its members world leading companies such as Skanska and Lafarge, professional associations such as the International Federation of Consulting Engineers and the World Green Building Council, and cities such as Madrid and Agadir. SBCI is hosted and coordinated by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and guided by the SBCI board, elected by the SBCI membership.

Add to its body of expertise CIB's ability to disseminate information through its conference and meeting programme, and its Newsletter (reaching 50,000 experts world-wide), and its ability to support research projects, review and validate, the value of the new partnership is apparent.

SBCI Website

Visitors to the UNEP SBCI website at www.unepsbci.org will find examples of work already carried out under this initiative, including free downloadable SBCI Reports, as well as the work planned for the year ahead and progress on issues such as climate change, benchmarking and policy.

Contact Information

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