



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.

August 2009

Around the Task Groups and Working Commissions

W089 - Building Research and Education

ASC2009 45th Annual Conference in cooperation with CIB W089 held in April 2009, in Gainesville, Florida, USA

by

Mel Lees, W089 Joint Coordinator

Background

April 2009 witnessed the coming together of CIB's W089 working commission with the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) when W089's annual commission meeting was held in conjunction with the 45th Annual ASC Conference hosted this year by the Rinker School of Building Construction, University of Florida. The CIB W089 member's contribution was not limited to the commission meeting. The conference keynote titled 'The World is Not Flat Enough' was delivered by W089 Joint Coordinator Prof. Mel Lees who also chaired a W089-led workshop on International Collaboration in Research. The transatlantic connection was further strengthened as the welcome reception on the first night was sponsored by the Centre for Education in the Built Environment (University of Salford).

The CIB mission statement includes the following:

- to provide a global network for international exchange and cooperation in research and innovation in building and construction.

The developing partnership between ASC and CIB W089 is well within the remit of the CIB and is an exciting stream of new activity.

'As joint coordinator of W089 I believe it is important that we reach out and embrace all researchers in all countries around the world. The Associated Schools of Construction has a long and proud history of fostering and supporting research in North America and a strong partnership between CIB W089 and ASC will extend the boundaries of that work. The two organisations working together will provide greater opportunity for



collaboration in research and a conduit for sharing educational practice.'

ASC - Associated Schools of Construction

The ASC is based in the United States with an international mission to be:

'The professional association for the development and advancement of construction education, where the sharing of ideas and knowledge inspires, guides and promotes excellence in curricula, teaching research and service.'

The ASC is structured into seven regions in the United States (Northeast, Southeast, Great Lakes, North Central, South central, Rocky Mountains and Far West) and two international regions, one for international institutions (Canada, Europe, Asia and the Pacific, and Caribbean/Central/South America) and one for industry professions. Each of the regions within the U.S. holds individual conferences and each year come together for a large international ASC annual conference.

This annual conference is well supported by industry, with sponsorship of events and delivery of keynotes by industrial partners throughout the conference. Peer reviewed papers are presented in parallel sessions and themed workshops are held to discuss, debate and capture information on key areas.

The theme of Prof. Lees' well received keynote issued a challenge to CIB and ASC members alike to think about the direction of higher education as we move towards an increasing level of internationalisation. With an increasingly globalised construction industry, what is the role of higher education? What would a globalised higher education look like? Why would

higher education institutions choose to go global? How can this be achieved? These are but a few of the questions posed.

The keynote set the tone for the meeting and the presence of the CIB W089 members, along with the welcoming attitude of their American hosts, added to the international flavour of the event.



W089 Joint Coordinator Prof Mel Lees delivers the keynote address at the 45th Annual ASC Conference in Florida

International Collaborative Research

A W089-led workshop on international collaborative research brought together over 30 delegates to discuss opportunities for collaboration and to increase the understanding of what structures and opportunities already exist. Several positive steps were taken including raising the profile of the CIB network in the United States and identifying potential opportunities for transatlantic collaboration.

Proceedings

The conference Proceedings can be downloaded for free at <http://ascpro.ascweb.org/chair/index.html>.

Moving Forward

W089 is continuing to engage with the ASC and is scheduled to hold another commission meeting again in partnership with the ASC next year. The 46th Annual Conference of the ASC will be held on the 7th – 10th April 2010 at Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston, Massachusetts. ASC paper submission is coordinated fully through a web system, which will accept full papers between the 5th and 30th October 2009.

This meeting will occur before the CIB World Congress to be held in Salford, United Kingdom on May 10th – 13th 2010. It the World Congress W089 and the Centre for Education in the Built Environment will be running a workshop on internationalisation. This workshop will further develop the understanding of

internationalisation of built environment education and identify and explore opportunities that exist for collaboration.

Additional Information

For more information about the ASC-CIB W089 cooperation please contact Prof. Mel Lees at Melvyn.Lees@bcu.ac.uk.



You can find more information on the activities of CIB W089 at www.cibworld.nl - Databases - select "Go to Database" – in the shown search engine: type W089 in the field "Commission number".