From the CIB Partners

New Agreement signed by CIB and ARCOM

by

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Background

CIB and the Association of Researchers in Construction Management (ARCOM) signed a Memorandum of Agreement at the annual ARCOM conference held in Leeds in September 2010. This agreement is an example of a movement taking place in the world of international and national academic and research organisations in the built environment.

No longer is it sufficient for individuals working in their own universities or research institutes to keep abreast of events and developments without the help of systems of communication. One can now join one or more organisations in order to keep in touch with others through these organisations collaborating on conference timings, research proposals and promoting and disseminating material and outputs.

The Memorandum of Agreement for Enhanced Co-operation and the Exchange of Information between ARCOM and the CIB provides a platform for our two organisations to come together and collaborate. The hope is that in due course individuals will be able to collaborate more easily and make contact more easily with interested parties in other parts of the world using the power of the internet and the ability of organisations to establish international links.

ARCOM

ARCOM was founded in 1985 and since then has held annual conferences for postgraduate researches in construction management, quantity surveying and construction economics. ARCOM also hosts a number of workshops for PhD students in the UK and other countries.

The aim of ARCOM is to give researchers from all over the world an opportunity to meet and develop management issues in a construction sector context. It seeks to encourage new researchers to join in the international network of construction management specialists and built their own reputations and careers. While ARCOM is firmly based in the UK, it is keen to encourage researchers from all over the world to participate in its proceedings.

This Memorandum of Agreement formally creates a channel of communication between the members of ARCOM through their Executive Committee to the CIB. We hope that this will increase the opportunities for collaboration and help researchers to disseminate their work more widely.

More information on ARCOM can be found in its website at: www.arcom.ac.uk.

Cooperation Activities

It is hoped to build on this agreement and develop new areas of co-operation over time and much of the development of the agreement will depend on the use made of it by our members, who may well bring to the agreement new ideas and ways of working.
In the first instance we envisage a number of ways in which the CIB and ARCOM might collaborate, including:

- the co-ordination of the planning and timing of conferences
- the circulation of the CIB Newsletter to ARCOM members through a link on the ARCOM website and the ARCOM Newsletter to the CIB
- promoting our conferences more widely to our mutual benefit.
- organising webinars to debate on globally topical issues.
- badging ARCOM-supported events e.g. The International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction
- undertaking joint activities of benefit to both CIB and ARCOM.

**Contact Points**

The main points of contact in the two organisations are currently held by Stephen Gruneberg s.gruneberg@westminster.ac.uk on behalf of ARCOM and Martin Sexton Coordinator of Working Commission W065 on Organisation and Management of Construction m.g.sexton@reading.ac.uk on behalf of the CIB. Both will be very happy to hear from members wishing to develop links or seeking help to establish contacts amongst the members in either organisation.

**Signing the MOA**

The Memorandum of Agreement was signed on the 7th September 2010 by Prof. Wim Bakens, Secretary General, CIB, wim.bakens@cibworld.nl and Prof. Martin Sexton, Coordinator of CIB W065 CIB, m.g.sexton@reading.ac.uk on behalf of the CIB and by Prof. Andy Dainty, University of Loughborough, A.R.J.Dainty@lboro.ac.uk and Dr. Stephen Gruneberg, University of Westminster, s.gruneberg@westminster.ac.uk on behalf of ARCOM.