CIB Reaches Out to Latin America

The CIB Board established a CIB Representative Office to be based at the University of Sao Paulo. This Office is intended to overcome the language barrier that has hampered the growth of CIB activities in Latin America. Although English is the second language in most countries of the region, only a small proportion of professionals in civil engineering and building and construction have mastered the language, so simultaneous translation is always required when speeches, for example, are delivered in English. The presence of the CIB Representative Office will make it possible for professionals to make contact in Portuguese or Spanish.

CIB Member University Support

The initiative is being supported by the Department of Civil Construction Engineering from the Escola Politecnica, University of Sao Paulo, a Latin American full member of CIB. The CIB Board has made some funding available to supplement the resources the University is supplying.

Initial Activities

The main purpose of the Office is to facilitate the communication between CIB and potential future members, and to enhance the relationship with existing members. As a consequence it is envisaged that initially the Office will:

- provide telephone and fax numbers accessible in both Portuguese and Spanish languages
- translate the Home, About CIB, News and Programme pages of the main CIB website, accessible from the CIB homepage, into Portuguese or Spanish
- act as the interlink with the CIB Secretariat in order to resolve members’ problems and to facilitate the encouragement of new members
- be the CIB contact for Latin America in order to publicise CIB activities, including planned future events.

The Representative Office will be active by May 2011.

Additional Information

To find out more about the CIB Representative Office contact Prof. Vahan Agopyan at vahan.agopyan@poli.usp.br.