Driven by a wish to expand the influence and recognition of CIB in North America, CIB has formed of what will be known as the CIB North American Regional Committee.

Because the three major nations comprising the North American Continent, the United States, Canada and Mexico, differ rather significantly in their architectural, engineering and construction environments, the Committee will begin its activities in consecutive phases, building on the successes and experiences of one phase before proceeding to the next. Noting that CIB membership in the United States is greater than in Canada, and that membership in Mexico is very small, it seems that the best opportunity for membership expansion in the region is to first concentrate on US membership. Following the US drive, campaigns in Canada and Mexico can follow, built on the organizational skills and experience gained in the US.

Three Primary Membership Categories

The Committee will develop three membership strategies concentrating separately on what it sees as the three primary categories of CIB membership:

- Research
- Academic
- Industry/Practitioner

Working with the CIB General Secretariat the Committee will aim at organizations representing focused groups, and significant units within each category, to attract new members.

The advantages of CIB membership for each category of members in the US differ significantly. Because of the limited exposure of CIB in North America, these advantages are not currently known or understood by the design and construction communities that require, produce, and utilize the research CIB provides. The motivation for joining CIB is consequently different as well. Consequently, as the Committee focuses on potential members in each membership category, the “motivators” CIB must provide to encourage these groups to join CIB are also different. While some of these “motivators” already exist, several must be produced in order to facilitate the expansion efforts in each membership category.

Composition of the Committee

The Committee will have approximately twelve members, chaired by a Committee Director appointed by the CIB Board. It is envisaged that the members should include CIB Board Members from North America, key representatives of each of the three primary membership categories, and others who are influential in one of the three membership categories mentioned above. Full Committee meetings are intended to be via electronic media. Specific task-forces and sub-groups will be formed once the Committee has been formed.

Foundation Director

The foundation Director of the Committee will be Professor J Thomas Regan, Texas A&M University, USA.

The Director and appropriate members of the committee will attend meetings of national organizations that represent members of the three membership categories, accompanied by the CIB Secretary General when possible.

The Committee will be functioning by March 2011.

Additional Information

For more information about the CIB Regional Committee for North America contact Professor Thomas Regan reganjt@archone.tamu.edu.