The CIB, CTBUH and UNESCO are very pleased to announce the formation of an international working group to deliver a ‘Roadmap’ on the future research needs of tall buildings. This roadmap is likely to set the agendas for tall building research in the short to mid-term future.

Background

Research in the field of tall buildings has increased significantly over previous years, fuelled in part by the dramatic construction activity which has seen city skylines around the world climb higher and higher with the presence of new and innovative tall building designs. More than ever before, research and academic institutions are examining the high-rise building, with new modules, courses and PhD programs focussing on the typology. At the same time industry and other organizations are also giving increased research considerations to high-rise design, construction and operation. Whilst this is overall a positive move, there does however seem to be a lack of guidance available to these organizations in terms of what research topics and research gaps require priority attention in the coming years to progress the tall building beyond its current state.

CIB Collaboration with CTBUH and UNESCO

With this in mind, the International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction (CIB), Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization are delighted to announce a collaboration on the creation of a “Roadmap on the Future Research Needs of Tall Buildings”. This published document will identify key research gaps and topics that deserve priority research activities in the field of tall buildings. In doing so, the publication will present an extensive agenda for necessary future tall building research. The Roadmap’s intended audience will include Intergovernmental Organizations, the United Nations including their agencies and programs, national governments and agencies, non-governmental organizations, academia and research institutes, industry and industry umbrella organizations.

Steering Group

This initiative will be led by a Steering Group made up of representatives from the CIB, CTBUH and UNESCO; Han Jihong (CIB - Shanghai Research Institute of Building Sciences, China hjhsribs@vip.sina.com), Philip Oldfield (CTBUH – University of Nottingham, UK philip.oldfield@nottingham.ac.uk), Fahim Sadek (CIB – National Institute of Standards and Technologies, USA fahim.sadek@nist.gov), Nicola Tollin (UNESCO - Chair on Sustainability – Universitat Politecnica de
Catalunya, Spain tollin@catunesco.upc.edu and Dario Trabucco (CTBUH – University of Venice, Italy trabucco@iuav.it).

The identification of research gaps and priority topics will be developed in conjunction with a wide panel of tall building experts drawn from academia and industry internationally.

**Methodology**

Questionnaires will be sent out to research centres, universities, research bodies and industry, in order to gauge the widest possible opinion on research topics / gaps that deserve priority attention with follow up interviews and discussions undertaken with the organisations that respond.

**Proposed Output**

The proposed output will be the creation of a publication that includes;

- a statement of the overview and aims of the Roadmap
- a map of current significant research activities being undertaken in tall buildings
- a map of key stakeholders
- a description of the methodology adopted for the selection of the research gaps / priority topics
- a list of the experts and organizations consulted and of the members of the peer review panels
- a list of the research gaps / priority topics according to the selection criteria and an explanation of their relevance and importance in advancing the tall building typology
- suggestions on moving forward for organizations and individual researchers, and possible collaborations with the CIB, CTBUH and UNESCO.

**Time Frame**

The group intend to complete an initial draft of the Roadmap in the third quarter of 2011, which will be followed by an explicit consultation period with key CIB, CTBUH and UNESCO members. In the coming months the Steering Group will be making approaches to experts in the field of tall buildings and related topics in order to identify a series of peer review panels to facilitate the creation of the Roadmap.