



**December 2011**

## **Around the Commissions**

### **W099 - Safety and Health in Construction**



## **Report of CIB W099 Conference: Prevention - Means to the End of Construction Injuries, Illnesses and Fatalities**

The conference was held in Washington, DC, August, 2011 and the theme was "Prevention: The Means to the End of Construction Injuries, Illnesses and Fatalities". The conference had 92 attending participants with almost half being internationals. The event was co-hosted by Virginia Tech Occupational Safety and Health Research Center and the Myers-Lawson School of Construction. Jeffery Lew from Purdue University was the conference editor and co-chair with Brian Kleiner – Virginia Tech, & Bill Maloney – University of Kentucky.

The event received several Construction Industry sponsors. Hensel Phelps Construction Company and Clark Construction provided the conference attendees an opportunity to tour current project sites. The Shaw Group, Virginia Tech Department of Building Construction, and Hensel Phelps Construction Company assisted with financial sponsorships for the event.

### **Conference Outcomes**

The following are outcomes of the conference:

The USA National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) used the CIB W099 Conference as an opportunity to report out on some of the mid-course results of the National Occupational Research Agenda

(NORA). Through the director and associate director of the NIOSH Construction program, this enabled engagement and benchmarking with international colleagues regarding US and other countries' best practices.

By strategically aligning W099 with the NIOSH Prevention through Design conference at the same venue and sequentially, some domestic and international delegates attended both. Great value was seen in having a cross-industry Prevention through Design conference followed by a construction-specific conference with a prevention theme. There were also synergistic logistics benefits by combining the two conferences.

CIB W099 afforded graduate students and project directors the opportunity to get formative feedback on projects in real time. This international benchmarking will lead to higher quality results.

CIB W099 provided a meeting place for collaborators already engaged in projects. For example, Virginia Tech and RMIT are in a 5 year research partnership.

The conference provided an excellent venue for making advances on this project.

Several new collaborative relationships were established among the 15 countries represented for future Networking.

### Looking Ahead to Singapore

Next year's CIB W099 International Conference on Construction Safety will be held in Singapore on 10-11 September 2012. The theme of the conference is "Modelling and Building Safety". The conference will be hosted by the Department of Building, National University of Singapore. The Co-Chairs of the Organising Committee of the conference are Associate Professor Evelyn Teo Ai Lin and Professor George Ofori.

This conference will offer the opportunity for participants to gain insights into the most effective ways and means of improving the safety performance of the construction industries globally. Some of the world's top experts will discuss the pressing issues in the context of occupational safety and health at the conference.

The conference will comprise plenary and breakout sessions, and optional technical visits. Arrangements are also being made to provide participants the opportunity to attend another high quality international conference in Singapore, which will follow immediately after this one. For more information, please see the conference website, [www.bdg.nus.edu.sg/safetyconf/index.htm](http://www.bdg.nus.edu.sg/safetyconf/index.htm).

### Proceedings

More information about the conference proceedings will be published as soon as they are available.

### Additional Information

For additional information about CIB W099 contact the Coordinator: Alistair Gibb [a.g.gibb@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:a.g.gibb@lboro.ac.uk).



You can find more information on the activities of CIB W099 in the CIB online Database "Commissions": see [here](#). In the shown search engine type "W099" in the field "Commission number" and press "Find records".