The Conference

The Joint CIB W070, W092 & TG72 International Conference on Facility Management, Procurement Systems and Public Private Partnership, attracted a significant number of key academics from around the world.

The conference venue was Graduate School of Business, Breakwater Campus, V&A Waterfront, University of Cape Town. The local organisers for the conference were Associate Professor Kathy Michell; Professor Paul Bowen and Professor Keith Cattell, all of University of Cape Town.

The main theme of the conference was how the development, procurement, delivery and management of built assets and facilities can deliver value to all stakeholders, including the wider community. The focus is on the maximisation of the value jointly created by the stakeholders and the equitable distribution of the resulting rewards.

This conference provided a timely opportunity to address some burning issues around PPP, based on papers drawn from the UK, South Africa, Australia, Bangladesh, Netherlands, Slovenia, etc. and the ensuing discussions during the much anticipated networking among those of us interested in this theme.

Hereafter follow three separate reports on those aspects of the conference that are most relevant to the three participating CIB Commissions.

Facilities Management

This report summarises the outcomes from the CIB conference as especially relevant to the theme of Facility Management

Presentations and papers

A number of key papers presented at the conference sought to address the increasing preoccupation in the industry on short term savings brought about by the austerity demands of clients. The key note speaker, Professor If Price captured the mood of this poingant
issue by asking "Does FM Destroy Value?" His paper pointed out that the current attention on 'value' and 'value chains' amongst both practitioners and academics may in fact be misrepresenting the wider value set: indeed, such terminology may conceal an erosion of true value. Thus, perhaps the FM community should at least ensure that this corrosion is not allowed to continue and value is preserved. Value enhancement was clearly a strong element of the symposia, some elements of which related to communities. Amongst the papers addressing enhancement were those on social sustainability, value process enhancement, integrated FM models for true value, and others. Under the workplace theme, issues related to; thermal comfort and the impact of behavioural issues; the potential of usability principles to stimulate innovation; and the use of narrative to explain the use of office space – exemplified the diversity of approaches that are being applied to address significant social challenges.

Participants
The combination of CIB W070 with another working group and task group had a twofold effect: 1) it provided a unique opportunity to look at FM issues through a new lens (procurement) and 2) during the prevailing period of global cuts to research funds it enabled CIB W070 to 'weather the storm' and derive economies of scale by participating in a combined event.

Scandinavian countries were particularly well represented at the W070 conference with significant representations from the UK and Germany, Ireland, Brazil, US, France, Switzerland, Netherlands and Slovenia. CIB W070 has traditionally attracted a high number of participants from the Far East but this was not in evidence on this occasion: partly due to the coincidence of the event with the Chinese New Year. It was a pleasure to see the involvement of a number of African countries in the presentations as facilities management gains an increasing foothold in this area.

Lessons Learnt
The key lesson learnt from the conference is that the choice of host university (University of Cape Town) was, without doubt, the correct one. Their ability to manage the reviewing and publication of the proceedings was invaluable and built on past experience with managing similar academic events. This capability will be taken into account when selecting future hosts. In terms of the joint involvement with other working groups, the W070 coordinators could in the future be more proactive in ensuring that contributors reflect on the conference theme and fully exploit the synergies that arise from working with another working group.

Next Symposia
The next CIB W070 Symposia in 2014 will be hosted by the Technical University of Denmark under the auspices of Professor Per Anker Jensen.

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Procurement Systems
Excellent keynote speeches were provided by Ron Watermeyer on procurement culture and Richard Calland on transparency. The conference programme was extensive and W092 - Procurement Systems delegates attended excellent sessions on Value enhancement; Supply chain issues; Aspects of procurement worldwide; Organisational strategies and PPPs. There were many excellent papers presented by authors from around the world. The paper by Brewer et al. on Value generation in long term concession projects tied together all three themes of the conference – FM, PPPs and Procurement – and received the BEPAM Highly Commended Award from Emerald.

The coordinators of W092 were exceedingly happy to have been part of an extremely well organised conference which brought together two working commissions and a task group which had complementary interests and the opportunity to learn and cross fertilise across disciplines was taken up by all of the delegates. This mix of thinkers lead to informed, focused and, sometimes, heated debate and all of the delegates left with a feeling of achievement and that the trip was worthwhile. It was especially pleasing to note that the local Cape Town delegates from industry got a lot of practical ideas and directions from the exchange of experiences from the international delegates and the organisers at the University of Cape Town are to be complimented for their excellent organisation and the wide ranging mix of delegates, as well as their exceptional hospitality. All in all, this was an excellent conference from academic, industry and social viewpoints.

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Public Private Partnership

The titles of papers on PPP presented at this conference include:

- What are the benefits of standardizing PPP procurement processes?
- Enabling the development of PPP, from niche to maturity
- Innovative solutions in DBFMO projects
- A comparative review and evaluation of the Negotiated and Competitive Dialogue procedures as effective procurement routes to deliver private finance
- A conceptual framework for assessment of whole life value for money in PPP projects in the SADC region
- PPP road projects in Bangladesh: Identification and prioritisation of risks
- An investigation of the benefits to, and effects on, society and individuals from PPP infrastructure delivery.
- A comparative study on legislations relating to public private partnerships in the UK and Slovenia
- Analysis of critical success factors for PPP road projects
- Performance indicators for public-private partnership (PPP) in infrastructure
- Involvement of External Agencies for Supplementing Competencies in Urban Local Bodies for Implementing Urban PPP Projects
- Do public private partnerships (PPP projects) provide value for money for infrastructure development in Australia?

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Proceedings
Proceedings on this conference are been publish in a separate News article see here.