

The Secretary General's Column

Striving for Commitments

A perusal of the list of projects set out below leads to the inescapable conclusion that a relatively large number of CIB Commissions are now shifting their focus from simply presenting and discussing learned papers to incorporating in their work-programmes the actual organisation of projects, each of which has a more or less clearly defined and practical outcome, and in most cases also is to be executed against a pre-determined time schedule.

To quote numbers: 26 out of the presently existing 54 Working Commissions and Task Groups have initiated one or more of such projects. Most of the 36 projects concerned actually involve a sector of the Commissions' Membership. These comprise persons who are willing and able to make a commitment to the respective project; in other words to produce a defined deliverable, hopefully of practical application within a fixed time frame.



Different Organisation Forms

These projects are organised in different ways. In some cases the individuals who are engaged go no further than committing their own free time.

For other projects individuals have been able to arrange a situation whereby they are allowed to spend time on the project within the framework of their own institute's work programme.

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Moreover, there are projects where the Commission has been able to secure external budgets to pay for the time spent either by all project participants or by the persons with an international coordinating responsibility.

All these differing formulas for organising and financing such projects, or a combination of them, are used and it is up to each CIB Commission that wants to initiate such a project to find its own optimal way of operating.

Shared Characteristics

All projects do have three characteristics in common.

The first is that collaborating in such a project is perceived by the Commission Members involved as a more effective way to exchange information, to learn from each others' experiences and to generate an output capable of being put to practical use than just presenting learned papers.

The second is that all projects are based on the assumption that the defined outcome is incapable of realisation by a single institute or by persons in one country only.

And the third is that each and every person involved in such a project is convinced that each single participant has to be committed.

I hold to the opinion that this trend towards increased commitment to achieving defined outcome will exercise a profound effect on the future culture within the CIB Community.



Inventory of Projects as indicated in the Compendium Entries of CIB Working Commissions and Task Groups, which suggest a commitment to producing a clearly defined outcome in the form of a Publication



TG11

- International Survey of Building Regulatory Systems
- to be expected in 1997

TG15

- Publication of National Monographs
- in conjunction with CIB World Building Congress 1998

TG16

- Best Practices for Sustainable Production
- in conjunction with CIB World Building Congress 1998

TG19

- State-of-the-Art Report from participating countries

TG20

- Report on State-of-the-Art on GIS for analysis, simulation and visualisation of the built environment
- in conjunction with CIB World Building Congress 1998

TG22

- Guide for Environmental Structural Design

TG24

- International State-of-the-Art Report
- to be expected early 1999

TG26

- International Status Report on Open Building Applications, Barriers and Opportunities
- to be expected end 1998
- International Inventory of Available Methods for Capacity Analysis of Residential and Non-Residential Buildings
- to be expected end 1998

TG27

- International Status Report on a) different applied technologies per country on culture and b) R&D programmes of institutes
- to be expected end 1998
- International Best Practice Report on Tool Handling Systems

- to be expected end 1998
- Bench Marking on Technologies for Transportation of Construction Materials
 - to be expected end 1998

W24

- International State-of-the-Art Report
 - in conjunction with CIB World Building Congress 1998
- Case Studies on Open Industrialisation in Building
- Open Industrialisation as a challenge for Architecture
- Innovative Methods for improving Production in Building

W55

- Readers on Building Economics
- Report on the Construction Market - World Wide

W56

- Text Book on Sandwich Panels
- Computer Programme for Sandwich Panels

W57

- Guide to Construction Information Services (both as hard copy and on the Internet)
 - to be expected in 1997

W60

- Case Study of an Application of the Performance Concept
- International State-of-the-Art Report

W70

- International Inventory of Sustainability Aspects in Facility Management and Maintenance
 - in conjunction with CIB World Building Congress 1998
- Overview of the International State-of-the-Art in Facilities Management, Property Management & Maintenance Systems, Condition Assessment Systems, Building Conservation & Refurbishment and Technology of Maintenance
 - to be expected in November 1998

W81

- Series of nine reports on Actions on Structures
 - the final report in this series is to be expected in the middle of 1997

W82

- Sustainable Development and the Future of Construction
 - in conjunction with CIB World Building Congress 1998

W83

- Recommendations for Assessing the Condition of In-Place Roofing Systems
- State-of-the-Art Report on Sustainable Roofing
 - in conjunction with CIB World Building Congress 1998

W85

- State-of-the-Art Report on Floor Vibration, Structural Serviceability, Design Concepts and Deformations of Floors and Roofs

W87

- National Case Studies on Post-Construction Claims
- in conjunction with CIB World Building Congress 1998

W92

- Recommendations for Good Procurement Practice
- International Glossary of Procurement Terms

W95

- Infrastructure, Economic Growth and Regional Development

W96

- Managing Sustainability in Design. Inventory of Tasks and Procedures
- in conjunction with CIB World Building Congress 1998

W97

- Protection of Buildings against Soil Gas Entry
- to be expected in the middle of 1997

W99

- Future Trends in Construction Safety

