

# TG19 - Designing for the Ageing Society



The premises of SINTEF in Trondheim, Norway were the venue for the most recent meeting of TG19 which took place from 16th to 19th June 1997.

There were 15 participants from 9 countries.

The Coordinator Dr. Satoshi Kose reports that the following papers were presented and discussed:

- Coordinator's vision, by Satoshi Kose
- Notes on priorities toward designing for the ageing society, by Paul Grayson, Sylvester Bone, Satoshi Kose, Satya Brink and Jon Christophersen
- Results from a study of the design of barrier free housing in Norway, Germany (Hessen), Scotland, England and Italy, by Jon Christophersen
- Designing places that we can age into: The Singapore scene, by James Harrison
- Adaptable housing, by Denis Dawkins
- Brief account of recent and current work in the UK, by Sylvester Bone
- Sheltered housing or dwellings: which solution is better for aged people?, by Annalisa Morini and Rita Pomposini
- Elderly people in their socio-spatial context: some results from a survey in the Netherlands, by Olindo Caso
- Priorities toward designing for the ageing society, by Assunta D'Innocenzo
- Lifetime homes in Europe and the UK: European legislation and good practice for ensuring accessibility of domestic dwellings, by Ivor Ambrose
- Access to buildings, by Christian Woetmann Nielsen
- Design guidelines for barrier-free dwellings: Preparing for the coming aged society in Japan, by Satoshi Kose
- A postulation: Barrier-free designs for the elderly and the disabled will become an universal design, by Saeko Yoshida and Takeshi Endo
- Infopack: Housing designs and modifications for older people, from The Center for Universal Design

## Draft Recommendations

There was also a thorough discussion of Draft Recommendations relating to Designing for the Ageing Society.

Dr. Kose summarises the reactions below.

1. Research on spatial requirements is necessary: Although there are cultural differences, there would be commonalities. TG19 should identify the similarities as well as the differences through research.
2. Technique for the modification of existing housing stock should be developed. It should extend from apartment units to single family dwellings. Except in the case of Japan where the average life of dwellings is just around 30 years, modification/rehabilitation of existing structures are of major concern.
3. Another issue concerning dwellings: In most countries, single family dwellings are not covered by stricter accessibility building regulations.
4. TG19 should work to define what is essential to being accessible and give full consideration to the input on this topic already made.
5. Needs of performance based standards; cost issues can be different in different countries; ageing population normally reject being lumped together with the group of disabled people.

A field trip was organised for 18th June 1997. Two sites were visited. One was a senior citizens' facility (service house type) and the other was a housing block for 'independent' seniors, which extended along a sloped site overlooking the sea.

### **Next Meeting**

Various possibilities for the next meeting were discussed and the Coordinator has provisionally proposed that it be scheduled just before the Universal Design Conference to be held in New York from 18th to 21st June 1998.

It is repeated that this is provisional and the actual place is yet to be determined.