

EDITORIAL

AGENDA 21 FOR SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION

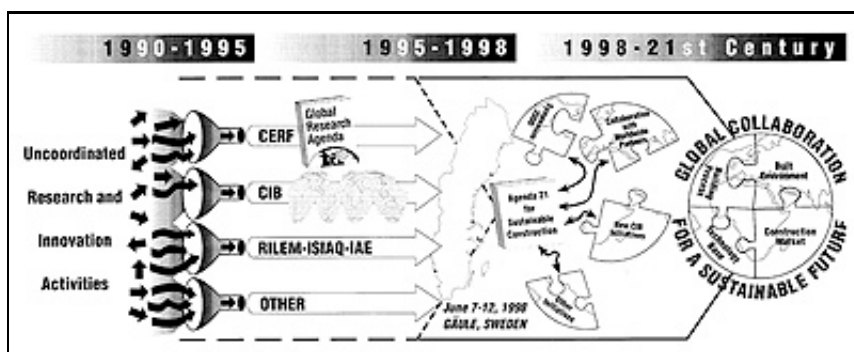
by Professor Christer Sjöström

The CIB Membership at large, the CIB Information readership and many more surely know by now that the 14th CIB World Building Congress in Gävle, Sweden, is placing the focus squarely on the Theme Construction and the Environment. Furthermore throughout the nineties and especially in the last three year period CIB has devoted considerable effort to organising new activities within this field. Most Working Commissions, operating in "traditional" areas today, also emphasise environmental concerns in their work.

This noticeable concentration of attention is certainly caused by far more than a general adaptation to a fashionable whim. The construction industry and the built environment are the key areas if we are to attain a sustainable development in our societies. By way of an example, in the European Union buildings are responsible for more than 40% of the total energy consumption and the construction sector is estimated to generate approximately 40% of all man-made wastes. In addition the construction sector is the Union's largest industrial sector, contributing with approximately 11% to the GDP and having more than 25 million people directly and indirectly engaged.

The need for an internationally agreed Agenda 21 for Sustainable Construction to help in guiding the work with implementing the principles of sustainability in the construction sector has matured over recent years. It is only natural that CIB, as the foremost association for international building research collaboration, should also take the initiative to establish such a document. This process includes a considerable degree of coordination with other distinguished international organisations for R&D collaboration.

The "International R&D Process" ([larger version](#))



International R&D activities coordinated to common goals in the 21st Century. The Gävle Congress has a key role and provides the platform for establishing an Agenda 21 for Sustainable Construction

The Agenda 21 for Sustainable Construction will form a worthy postscript to the Congress and will be published within a year after the Gävle event. The five Congress Symposia are being asked to present concluding reports to the Congress Plenary Session and these reports will constitute a basis for the Agenda. Apart from that input from the Congress the Agenda will also build on the work by a number of relevant Working Commissions and Task Groups.

The writing and editing of the Agenda will be performed by a small team with Dr. Luc Bourdeau, CSTB, as the Editor in Chief. Selected CIB Coordinators will be asked to act as a sounding board for the

editorial team. Organised communication will also be established with experts from the associations cooperating with CIB in arranging some of the Congress Symposia - CERF, RILEM, IEA and ISIAQ - and with EU/ECCREDI and South East Asia.

