

# THE 8TH MEETING OF COORDINATORS

A full scale meeting of Coordinators has become an indispensable component in the programme of events that are scheduled round the Triennial Congress.

At one time such meetings were held separately but as Coordinators are now drawn from an ever widening geographical background, practical considerations have made it more difficult to bring a worthwhile number together in between Congresses.

There were 13 in Gävle representing 12 Working Commissions and Task Groups and here the timing was perhaps not ideal since the full programme only left Saturday at the end of the week as being available. This was 13th June 1998. The number incidentally was bolstered by the participation of two CIB Board and Programme Committee Members, a leader of one of the Sustainable Construction Projects and the Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General of CIB.

## Appreciation for Coordinators

In the unavoidable absence of the Chairman of the Programme Committee Mr. L. Little, Dr. John Duncan, the new President, took the Chair and opened by repeating the warm thanks of the Board for the very significant contributions which Coordinators make toward attaining the objectives of CIB. He took the opportunity to remind Coordinators that the Triennium just concluded had been a very dynamic period and a detailed report on the activities was featured in Issue Nr. 3/98 of the Information Bulletin.

One point to which attention was given at the meeting concerned the termination of existing or commencement of new activities.

Here Dr. Duncan was at pains to point out to Coordinators that the Programme Committee only terminated an activity in cases where there were strong reasons for doing so and he cited examples where it had proved to be impossible to sustain the viability of the Group.

The general policy currently being followed was to start each new activity in the form of a Task Group and to strive for a mechanism whereby the activity could develop into one of long lasting benefit for members.

The meeting went on to discuss the criteria that applied in the evolution of a Task Group into a Working Commission.

## CIB AND SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION

The immediate Past President, Professor Christer Sjöström briefly traced CIB involvement with the theme of Sustainable Construction.

He said that this would certainly not end with the CIB World Building Congress 1998 in Gävle. He was convinced that it was a theme of the greatest importance to industry and would continue to be so in the future.

## Interim Report on SC Projects

The Secretary General recalled that after the decision had been taken that Sustainable Construction would be a central theme in CIB's programme, Working Commissions had set up related projects.

Interim progress reports on these were presented as follows:

### Project: **Integral Delivery Systems**

A written status report by Professor P.S. Barrett was distributed.

## **Project: Sustainability and Performance Concept**

Dr. G. Fredriksson, who also reported on behalf of Dr. J. Bröchner, summarised the latest position.

## **Project: Agenda 21 for Sustainable Construction**

Professor Sjöström outlined plans for producing a CIB Booklet setting out an internationally agreed Agenda 21 for Sustainable Construction to help in guiding work in implementing the principles of Sustainability in the Construction sector.

The target date for the Publication is January/February 1999.

He added that more detailed items might well be published in the CIB Encouraged Journals and the Journal "Building Research and Information" would be a particularly suitable vehicle for this purpose.

## **THE PRO-ACTIVE APPROACH**

Dr. Duncan briefly introduced the principles and objectives of the Pro-Active Approach and referred Coordinators to Issue 2/98 of the CIB Information Bulletin where he had described the concept in some detail.

He said that there were two primary aims.

These were:

- o To enhance CIB's attractiveness to industry
- o To render CIB more "bankable" as an international centre of research

The Sub-Committee appointed for the purpose had come up with an activity to be the focus for the 1998-2001 Triennium, which was to compile an inventory of verified models of various aspects of building performance standards and the critical issues which need to be addressed.

He emphasised that the Pro-Active Approach was in no way to be viewed as a threat to existing Working Commissions or Task Groups and was not intended to be so. It was not a question of seeking to usurp the authority of Coordinators but rather of building bridges.

More from John on the front page!

The Secretary General said that a "bidding" procedure was underway among selected CIB members to formulate plans for developing a draft programme for the building performance inventory.

The Division of Building, Construction and Engineering CSIRO Australia has since been awarded the Task.

Dr. Greg Foliente tells Members what they have in mind in a special article on page ...

## **Relationship with the General Secretariat**

### **Change in Reporting Procedures**

The Secretary General recalled that up to two years ago the CIB General Secretariat had asked Coordinators to provide annual reports.

This procedure had now been streamlined to one whereby the General Secretariat took up contact with each Coordinator before and after the meeting of the Group concerned.

### **Membership of WCs and TGs**

He also said that the situation three years ago was one whereby some 40% of the TGs and WCs were not members of CIB. This imbalance had been drastically reduced during the intervening years.

The CIB Home Page now contained the official membership list for every TG and WC and there was a monthly up-date.

### **Administrative Back-Up from CIB General Secretariat**

The Secretary General briefly summarised the facilities available to Coordinators by way of administrative back-up by the General Secretariat.

### **NEW CIB HOME PAGE**

The Secretary General demonstrated the features of the new version of the Home Page which had been developed at the CIB General Secretariat.

### **Open Forum**

As usual the meeting was conducted in such a way as to be fully participative and Coordinators raised an array of topics which they felt called for wider discussion.

Among these were:

- the desirability of extending participation by industry and the appropriate means to realise this (Prof. S. Kendall).
- the feasibility of devising an appropriate mechanism to allow the corpus of Coordinators more say in running CIB affairs (Dr. P. Nicholson).
- the placing of more emphasis on activities related to education (Dr. P. Nicholson).
- the investigation of whether CIB might initiate some sort of forum through which students could communicate with each other, somewhat analogous to the strong student chapters that were current in the USA. They had proved their worth there as a source of high calibre new members for the associated organisations (Dr. Duncan).
- the undertaking of a concerted effort to increase participation in CIB by civil and mechanical engineers (Mr. N. Larsson).

Coordinators are the key figures in CIB and every effort is made to accord them the profile they deserve. Anyone who is a regular reader of this information Bulletin will be aware of just what they do achieve all the year round.