

EDITORIAL

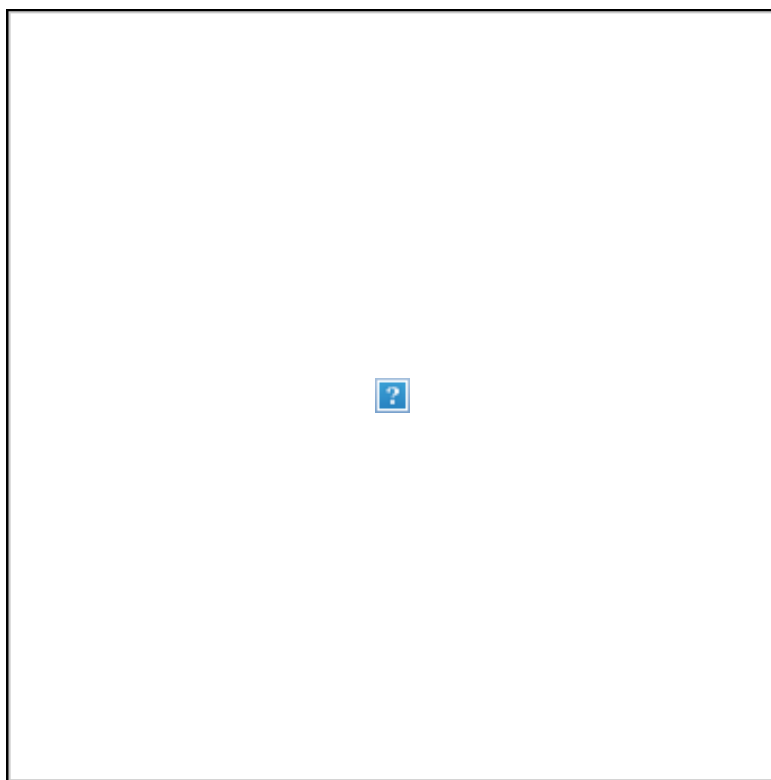
'To Take The Interests Of All Our Members And Our Stakeholders Forward'

The Newly Elected President Addresses The CIB General Assembly

Thank you for your confidence in me and in the new Board you have elected. I am very conscious that we follow in the tradition of some renowned leaders and we look forward to living up to this.

CIB has a wide breadth of activity, as I am aware from my role on the Programme Committee and we can also see ample evidence displayed at this Congress. We need to build on this further.

Alliances with other organisations will be essential. But if researchers in our fields of competence set up brand-new organisations which vie for membership with CIB, we need to ask ourselves why. It is a test of whether we are meeting the needs of the research community.



Sustainability has moved up the S curve well over the last few years. We can take it further yet. But we need to pick up more areas and give them this same concentrated attention.

I am not going to pre-empt any decision by the new Board on how the "Proactive Approach" will be applied. But the issue of "Performance of Buildings" - how we specify what we want, how we assure the capability in the design and planning process and then in the construction process, and how we close the loop on whether it has met user expectations - seems very important. I expect that the next Congress, while not yet having selected a defined theme, will involve some of the aspects of this issue, in the way that this one has focussed on "sustainability".

I want to emphasise again that this is not a statement that the "Proactive Approach" will necessarily be dealing with performance codes, which is one of the three options that the outgoing Board identified. The overarching issues apply just as much to the other two identified alternatives - sustainability, and re-engineering of the design and construction process - as to the issue of performance codes, and all three constitute important challenges for the industry as it readies itself for the next century.

Another issue that I see as important is getting our results to people. The information transfer to potential

users - be they:

- other researchers
- code writers
- building owners - to assist a market pull
- designers
- construction site companies
- manufacturers
- or indeed anyone else involved in the overall process of creating the built environment is an area that I hope we can review carefully over the coming few years.

The Board that has been elected is, in my view, a very strong one and I look forward to working with them to take the interests of all our members and our stakeholders forward.

The General Assembly has just considered the first stage in the review of our Constitution. I recognise that we need to progress this further. Our membership patterns were considerably perturbed by the fee system changes introduced in 1995. There are still some interesting challenges for the new Board in setting a scheme which matches benefits obtained to a fees schedule, in a way that is both equitable and affordable for our members.

I referred to the next Congress as likely to have a theme related to performance of buildings. We do not yet have a precise slogan, but watch out for it very soon. We do know that it is planned for the week 2-6 April, 2001, in Wellington, New Zealand. Someone said that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, and I hope we can devise an event in New Zealand which has the same capacity for cross-fertilisation between disciplines that this Congress in Sweden has done.

On behalf of the members, I thank Christer Sjoström and the outgoing Board for the work they have done. I do hope that the same can be said of us in three years' time.

John Duncan