

TG36 - Quality Assurance

The demise of W88 was announced in Issue 2/98 of Information accompanied by the news that it would be succeeded by a Task Group to ensure the continuation of this important activity. The necessary procedures were completed in time for the Group to hold its inaugural meeting in Gävle during the CIB World Congress. The Joint Coordinators are Dr. Gary R. Smith from the Department of Civil and Construction Engineering at Iowa State University, USA and Mr. Tapio Koivu from VTT Building Technology, Finland.

Tapio Koivu reports that the meeting reviewed possible scope, objectives, organisation and structure and that the discussions ranged over several viewpoints from quality assurance to improving the competitiveness of businesses. It was mentioned that 'quality assurance' might not be the most apt name for the new Task Group but for the time being it will continue to be used.

Report on QA Implementation

It was agreed that the Task Group would undertake the commitment to compile a state-of-the-art report on how quality assurance in the broad sense, (and this will be defined more precisely at a later stage), is actually implemented in the Construction Sector in different parts of the world.

In this the report published by CIB in 1994 by Odd Sjøholt and Peter Barrett will form the basis.

The way in which QM thinking has evolved and matured naturally exerts an influence on the State-of-the Art Survey and especially the questionnaire.

The aim of the new survey is to increase the number of countries replying from 13 to 30 and to obtain a picture of the changes that have taken place from the early 90's and how the QM thrust has influenced construction. Driving forces, national and international trends and impacts will be reviewed.

The focus will be on integrating management approaches, which means that liaisons and cooperation with a number of other WCs and TGs are essential.

The Joint Coordinators will prepare the questionnaire and a methodology to set the survey in motion.

After the survey has been completed the TG will concentrate its attention on more detailed questions and possibly case studies.

The estimate is that the survey could be finalised within one and a half years.

TG36 Home Page

One of the decisions made at the meeting was that a TG36 Home Page would have to be developed. This has now been achieved and the results can be seen at:

<http://www.vtt.fi/rte/strat/cibtg36>

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the TG will be in Hawaii in March 1999.