



W78 elected to meet in Stockholm just prior to the Congress and its annual meeting which was attended by 37 people, took place on 4th June 1998 as part of a three day Workshop.

Work Programme

The main focus of discussions was the Work Programme and Coordinator Martin Betts has been good enough to provide an informative summary of what transpired.

- **Use of Internet :**
The work of the Commission in this area focuses on the production of the Electronic Journal ITCon.
- **Virtual Building Model :**
Disappointing progress was being made with this element of the work programme largely through difficulties in finding funds from within national research programmes and projects. It was agreed that this issue remained important for collective efforts to have comparable building product data on which to base W78's work. A number of members of the Commission agreed to continue to explore how their work might provide a solution to this need. Any member of the Commission who felt able to contribute complete product and process data about a building project for use by W78 was invited to approach the Coordinator as soon as possible.
- **National IT Strategies :**
Progress with this project had been made through the EU funded SCENIC project under a Task Force led by Leopold Boi from CETE in France. Copies of the SCENIC report which compared national IT strategies in France, Belgium, Sweden, Finland and the UK were made available at the meeting (and can be obtained electronically from the Coordinator). Members were invited to add their own data to this existing report as soon as possible. The opportunity to produce a CIB publication from this work had already been explored with the Secretary General and will be pursued further once additional data has been collected. This project is under the leadership of the Coordinator. A deadline for receipt of further contributions of 1st November 1998 has been set.
- A new proposal was made for an activity to develop further a theme which arose at the Congress. This was to initiate a series of surveys into the state of use and exploitation of IT in different countries. This would build upon work to date in collecting data from: UK, Australia, Hong Kong and South Africa using the Construct It Strategic Health Check; from Denmark, Finland, Sweden and UK. Using the IT Barometer; and using other survey instruments in Ireland. The ongoing work for this project is to be led by Rob Howard of Denmark. Rob is forming an e-mail discussion group on this topic to which he will shortly circulate the results of his initial analysis of the commonality between existing instruments and proposals for how they can be integrated in the future. Other members of W78 were invited to contact the Coordinator or Rob Howard at the earliest opportunity. The future of this element of the work programme would be that upon agreement of a common instrument, other countries would be invited to use it and present their results at the 1999 Meeting. All countries would then be invited to repeat the use of the common instrument for reporting at the 2000 Meeting.

Future Meetings

1999 : A detailed proposal was made for this to be held in Vancouver. This will be a joint event with the 8th International Conference on the Durability of Building Materials.

2000 : A proposal was made for this event to be hosted by the Icelandic Building Research Centre.

Others offers for hosting future W78 meetings had been received from Georgia Tech in Atlanta, the University of Aarhus in Denmark and from the Construct IT Center in Hong Kong. These would be considered as possible future venues for a W78 meeting after the year 2000.

Links to Other Activities

The opportunity for the Commission to have closer links with the Global Industry Alliance for Interoperability (IAI) was discussed and the hope was expressed that the IAI will be able to hold a technical meeting in association with W78. This matter will be discussed further by Dana Vanier and Arto Kivaniemi.

Before finally closing the meeting, warm thanks were given to Bo-Christer Björk and Adina Jagbeck for having hosted it.
