

W99 - SAFETY AND HEALTH ON CONSTRUCTION SITES



Another significant impetus to attaining the Commission's stated objectives was chalked up with its recent International Conference, held at Instituto Superior Técnico (IST), Lisbon, Portugal, on 16th June 1998, on Environment, Quality and Safety in Construction. This turned out to be a great success.

The role of the construction area in the reduction of environmental pollution, in the improvement of quality and in the reduction of occupational accidents and professional diseases came under scrutiny.

The topics which received specialist attention at the Conference were:

- Successful Prevention of Allergic Cement Eczema in Germany
- Construction Health & Safety - Materials Impact
- Fall Protection on Concrete on Formwork Systems
- Technological Advances in Construction Safety
- Addressing Construction Safety in the Design Phase
- Environmental Issues as They Relate to Construction Safety
- Using Quality to Improve Safety and Productivity in Construction
- Safety and Health of Older Employees on the Building Site
- Integrating Environmental, Quality and Safety Management in Construction
- Practical Site Management: Integration of Safety, Quality & Environmental Impact
- Minimum International Safety and Health Standards in Construction
- Management and Operative Safety Improvement - A goal for the whole organisation

Commission Meeting

On the day prior to this Conference, W99 held its Commission Meeting.

Given the excellence of the Conference, Coordinator Rick Coble was acutely prescient when he opened the meeting with the quotation:

Success has a thousand fathers:
failure is an orphan

In his report he looked ahead to 1999 when the Commission was scheduled to meet in Milan. This will be on 21st June 1999 and will be followed by a two day Conference jointly with TG36 (see page).

The main focus of this Conference will be to learn about other EC countries' experiences on implementation of EC Directive 92/57 (Construction Site Directive).

Rick Coble went on to mention that there would be a major conference every three years with other conferences/meetings in between. It would be ideal to schedule one conference per year in Europe.

Area Coordinators

The implementation of area coordinators was discussed in order to have representation from all around the world. Luís Dias (Europe) and Amarjit Singh (Pacific Rim)--Australia were currently two area coordinators. The intention is to have a conference every year in each region. The focus will be provided at these conferences with a meeting to go along with it as well as a social event. Area coordinators are still needed in Africa, Asia, Far East, India, South/Central America and the Caribbean.

In ensuing discussions, there was concern expressed that W99 had too many meetings too closely together--people would simply not be able to attend them all.

Nevertheless, all present were in favour of the area coordinator concept with periodic regional meetings.

Initiative Coordinator:

Wim Schaefer had done this for safety and health on construction sites and Rick Coble was proposing another one on "best practices". The impression was that owner and designer safety responsibility initiatives were more advanced in Europe.

It was mentioned that W99 had already produced two Publications 187 and 209.

These are state-of-the-art-reports which have been developed from the Commission.

The latest one is Publication 215 out in 1998 which will include papers from the first South Africa safety conference, the meeting in Gävle, Sweden, and Lisbon, Portugal. A synthesis of this work will be undertaken by Rick Coble later.

Student Group

There was discussion on developing a CIB student group. It was felt that it was timely for students to become involved in CIB. CIB Secretary General Wim Bakens voiced the desirability of compiling a white paper on how this might work out prior to its full-scale implementation within CIB. Students could use the Internet to work together and once a year have a video conference to bring students and faculty together in person.

Brent Elliot provided further discussion ideas about creating a CIB student chapter. It was felt that this would be a good idea to get students exposed (especially at the undergraduate level).

Next Wim Schaefer led a discussion on the Draft Study on Policy and Trends for Safety and Health on the Construction Site.

A combination conference in 2002 is being planned at which Steve Rowlinson (Hong Kong) and Dongping Fang in China will be hosts. The plan is to have the meeting in Hong Kong and the conference in Beijing.

Wim Bakens invited W99 members to contribute to the Draft CIB Publication 227, which covered four main areas related to culture, costs, organization, and technology.

A presentation was made by Kent Davis on the Relationship between Construction Safety and Quality in which he looked at the interrelationship between safety and quality programs. He noted that the programs which companies develop for safety and quality are similar (mission, training, etc.). What is synergistic about safety and quality?

The relationship is such that quality leads to safety and safety leads to quality.

Theo Haupt, whose paper is included in the Proceedings of the Gävle Congress, spoke on Minimum International Standards in Safety and Health in Construction.

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To subscribe to the list of W99 server list: type in the following message: Subscribe CIBW99-L "Rick" "Coble" (substitute your name in the quotation marks)

Next Meeting

The next meeting of W99 will be held in Cape Town, South Africa from 23-26, November 1998.
