



ADDITIONS TO THE SCIENTIFIC & TECHNICAL SECTOR OF CIB

Two New Task Groups Two New Working Commissions

Invitation to New Groups:

- [TG37 - Performance Based Building Regulatory Systems](#)
- [TG38 - Urban Sustainability](#)
- [W102 - Information and Knowledge Management in Building](#)
- [W103 - Construction Conflict: Avoidance and Resolution](#)

The summary report of the 59th Meeting of the CIB Programme Committee held on 12th and 13th October 1998 states that new Task Groups and Working Commissions were set up. These were two new Task Groups and two new Working Commissions and full details are given below. The opportunity has been taken to introduce the Coordinators to lead these Groups, to give their views on how they see future developments. Members should of course bear in mind that since these Groups have only just come into existence. The data below is provisional and will be discussed at the next up-coming meetings.



TG37 - Performance Based Building Regulatory Systems



Coordinator

An unforeseen development has made it necessary to re-consider this appointment. Confirmation will be given shortly.

Objectives/Scope

- to develop at an international level, framework, guidance and support documents on construction related regulatory environment issues related to the development, implementation and support of performance based regulatory systems
- to identify the broad public policy, regulatory infrastructure, education and technology issues related to managing the successful implementation and continuation of construction related performance based regulatory systems
- to advance a common understanding of the international regulatory environment
- to promote the exchange of information and to facilitate a more open environment of inter-jurisdictional commerce in the area of building design and construction

Programme

The Task Group's Work Programme is aimed at producing a guidance document outlining the issues, problems and solutions that have been useful in achieving a successful implementation of performance based building regulatory systems.

The Task Group is expected to have a major input into the CIB Programme for (i) collaborative CIB Member projects, (ii) CIB Commission Projects and (iii) CIB Strategic Partnerships in the area of Performance Based Building Codes and Standards.



TG38 - Urban Sustainability



Joint Coordinators

- Alan Gilham, BRE, UK ([more information](#))
- Chrisna du Plessis, CSIR, South Africa ([more information](#))

Objectives/Scope

In the context of achieving Sustainable Development continuing urbanisation reinforces the importance of creating a built environment that is sustainable for future generations. It is assumed that this will be achieved only in the context of the genuine needs and concerns of people who live and work in these communities. Key factors already known to affect the quality of urban development include: planning and regeneration policies, transport and service infrastructures, provision for safe and secure environments, provision for appropriate health, welfare and leisure facilities, decision making structures and levels of public participation, finance initiatives, investment policies and forms of procurement and job creation and opportunities for wealth distribution. The Task Group will consider the interrelations between these factors and how they impact on the whole construction supply chain and on the quality of the urban landscape. It will address the known concerns of planners, regulators, housing providers and designers in terms of assessing the sustainability of developments in the urban built environment.

The aim of the Task Group is to develop guidelines for decision making to achieve a more sustainable urban built environment. This will be achieved by:

- exploring existing decision making protocols employed throughout the planning and development process
- mapping out the interfaces between the different actors and tiers of decision making
- identifying the key priorities / differences / etc. for each group
- developing a common language to enhance understanding and effective communication.

Programme

A detailed work programme and time schedule will be established in the beginning of 1999.

Annual Task Group Workshops will be organised for which participants will be asked to present and discuss country reports on aspects of decision making protocols. These country reports will serve as the basis for producing international guidelines for decision making.

These Workshops in principle will take place in conjunction with major congresses addressing topics of importance to urban sustainability.

Introducing the Joint Coordinators:

Alan Gilham

Alan Gilham is Head of Urban Sustainability in BRE's Centre for Sustainable Construction (CSC). With over 22 years of wide ranging experience in design, construction and research management his work focuses on developing new capabilities to establish the CSC as the foremost centre of research and

consultancy on urban sustainability. This requires a variety of skills and understanding of the environmental, social and economic impacts of the industry and how the construction industry and its clients can respond in the short, medium and long term, to the demands for sustainable development.

Specifically, this work builds on previous experience in the construction industry where Mr Gilham held senior positions in Design and Project Management. He works with industry leaders in design, development and construction management to bring about innovation and continuous improvement in the industry. In his role as Head of Urban Sustainability, he has lead collaborative projects with leading national and international planning and development agencies that seek to improve the sustainability of development choices.

Mr Gilham joined BRE in 1993 to work on the Energy Efficiency Best Practice programme where he developed and managed the delivery of R & D strategies. He is currently achieving international recognition for his work in organisational change to more sustainable working practices. He was a key author of the recent CIB Report 'Sustainable Development and the Future of Construction'. He is also Chair of the UK's Chartered Institute of Building's Environment Committee and represents construction professionals on the CRISP Theme Group for Sustainable Construction which is re-defining the UK industry research needs related to achieving developments which are sustainable.

Chrisna du Plessis

Chrisna du Plessis is a research architect and Sustainable Development adviser at CSIR - Division of Building Technology in Pretoria, South Africa. She graduated in architecture from the University of Pretoria and her key areas of expertise are: Sustainable development planning in the built environment; Crime prevention through environment design (CPTED); and Low cost housing development.



From 1992 to 1997 she was self-employed and engaged in development conceptualisation consultancy serving local and international companies investing within Southern Africa, with emphasis on promoting sustainable development within the fields of housing and eco-tourism. Projects with which she was associated included the formulation of a sustainable development strategy for a joint venture development of Mpumalanga Parks Board holdings and privately owned land in and around Pilgrim's Rest to establish a consolidated theme-based eco-tourism node and conservancy; a development plan for a closed-system cluster home development (eco-village) in Kyalami for Condev North; strategy for the re-development of part of the Wild Coast including eco-tourism options and guidelines for the sustainable development of rural areas for Syncom International; two Mpumalanga casino proposals for Admiral Leisure World; proposal to Gauteng Department of Housing for the use of housing subsidies for student housing at Vista University for Condev North.

Her recent Publications (1998) include:

- o The South African Report on Sustainable Development and the Future of Construction, "Sustainable Development and the Future of Construction. A comparison of visions from various countries" in CIB Publication 225, 1998.
- o M. Napier, C. du Plessis, S. Liebermann, T. Kruger, M. Shaw, A. Louw and S. Oppler. 1998. Environmental Design for Safer Communities in South Africa. Vol. 1&2. Pretoria: CSIR. Conference Papers on "Crime and a Sustainable Environment" and "Spiritual Architecture".



W102 - Information and Knowledge Management in Building



Coordinator

Objectives/Scope

Information is an all-pervading ingredient in building, common to research and practice. By giving proper consideration to the flow of information, research results can be usefully translated into innovation and further adapted to provide the knowledge-base for best practice. In an environment in which the tools for making information available are developing at breakneck speed, it is necessary to manage the whole spectrum of information forms in a way that reflects the realities of decision-making in modern building practice.

In this context the Objective for the Working Commission is to cover concerns that are related to information and knowledge management, both theoretical and practical. Special points of attention are the following:

- interface between general information and the building process and especially the dysfunction in the flow of information between researchers and practitioners. The questions why research results are not put into practice, and how research results and feedback information can be converted and refined to be of practical use will be considered
- contemporary information systems bearing on the information needs of the building industry.

Programme

The case-studies approach (of information successes and failures in the construction industry) will characterise the Commission's work. Tasks to be performed during the period 1998-2001 include preparing the following deliverables: (i) scientific products for a broad building industry audience, (ii) practical products for the benefit of other CIB and UICB members and (iii) products of immediate use by the Working Commission's own members.

Introducing the Coordinator



Colin Davidson

Colin Davidson, Professor and Ex-Dean, Faculté de l'Aménagement Faculty of Environmental Design, Université de Montréal, is also founder president of the IF Research Corporation (a member of CIB) whose mission is to conduct research and organise events in the areas of building procurement, innovation and technology transfer and applications of information and documentation science to building.

Professor Davidson holds a diploma in architecture (Brussels City Royal Academy, 1951) and a masters in architecture (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1955); he has practised in the field of architecture in Italy, the United States and the United Kingdom prior to emigrating to Canada in 1968.

Professor Davidson is a member of W092, and has been a member of Commission W052 (which became W057) before assuming the coordinatorship of W102: "Information and Knowledge Management in Building".

W102 is destined to explore the often tenuous relationship between scientific and technical information on the one hand and project-related practice on the other. This challenge is to be taken up by activities that relate to the transmission of information and its up-take as knowledge (cognitive aspects) and by other activities that focus on a systems approach to information - particularly the most recent studies in the field of information science.

W102 is to produce recommendations and guidelines for CIB to help with the transfer of the results of research to practice through strategies that increase the probability of their being used by practitioners and building enterprises at present, the probability is embarrassingly low.

Since W102 is a joint working commission, proposed to be shared between CIB and the International Union of Building Centers - UICB, W102 is also to examine the impact of technical and commercial information on project-related decision-making; it is hoped that findings will help improve the flow of up-to-date information particularly regarding innovations to the appropriate decision-makers.



W103 - Construction Conflict: Avoidance and Resolution



Coordinators

- Peter Fenn, UMIST, UK
- Edward Davies, Masons Solicitors, UK

Objectives/Scope

The overall aim is to study the techniques used to manage conflict and resolve disputes in construction business throughout the world. In this context the Commission's Objectives are:

- To carry out pilot work on construction conflict aetiology by international review with a view to the development of a predictive model
- To act as a catalyst for the collection and dissemination of research and practical experience
- To identify the techniques used to manage conflict on construction projects
- To identify the fora and techniques used to resolve disputes on construction projects
- To collect empirical evidence on both conflict and disputes
- To make recommendations for best practice
- To publish a collection of studies detailing procedures and experiences in member countries

Programme

In 1998 the former CIB Task Group TG15, of which Working Commission W103 is the successor, produced an International State-of-the-Art Report on Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management in Construction, containing monographs of practice and procedure in 20 countries. The Commission's Work Programme is aimed at producing an update of this publication in 2000 with updates of the 20 national monographs included in the first publication and with an addition of another 20 national monographs.

In addition the Commission's Work Programme will concentrate on the avoidance of conflicts in construction, in the context of which the aim is to carry out a pilot study of conflict aetiology with a view to producing a predictive model.

Invitation to Nominate Representative(s)

Full and Associate Members are cordially invited to consider nominating representatives to (a selection of) these new Groups, according to their evaluation of the relevance to their professional interests.

To supplement the information above, Members are invited to look at the corresponding Compendium Entries.

Please notify the General Secretariat of nominations and remember it is important to give the full name, address, telephone number etc. of each representative.

All those involved hope that these additions to CIB's scientific and technical programme will be judged as meaningful within the context of members' own activities.

CIB General Secretariat

Postbox 1837

3000 BV Rotterdam

The Netherlands

Tel: +31.10.411 0240

Fax: +31.10.433 4372

E-mail: secretariat@cibworld.nl

