



# THE CIB MEETINGS IN BRISBANE

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Professor Weilin Chang and colleagues at the Faculty of Built Environment and Engineering, Queensland University of Technology were hosts for the Autumn series of CIB Meetings.

The excellent arrangements and generous hospitality combined to create a relaxed and comfortable sphere where the CIB policy bodies could concentrate on their business.

There was universal agreement that these meetings were productive and for the information of the CIB membership, a report on each is presented below.

Parts of the week are also captured in pictures.



[A brisk walk in the early morning sunshine through the Botanical Gardens right across the road from the delegates' hotel to the meeting place was the ideal way to sharpen up for the long day ahead]



## 1ST MEETING OF THE OFFICERS' COMMITTEE



**Date : 11th October 1998**

Chair : Dr. J.R. Duncan, CIB President  
BRANZ - Building Research Association of New Zealand

### **Existing Body in New Guise**

This was ostensibly the initial meeting of a new policy advisory organ within CIB but in effect it was a continuation of the regular series of Officers' meetings which had proved their worth over the past three

years.

There is, however, one important addition to the membership and that is the Chairman of the Programme Committee who now becomes an Officer of CIB according to the new Constitution and By-Laws.

Opening the meeting, the President noted that it was incumbent on those charged with the task of steering the Organisation from the top to pool information on what was going on in the different Committees, which was a pre-requisite for meaningful dialogue with other Board Colleagues.

### **An Advisory Function**

In Brisbane the Officers' Committee discussed its own role for the current Triennium which included its advisory function vis-à-vis the Programme Committee and the Administrative Committee.

One specific CIB project which was retained for the Officers' Committee was the Gyula Sebestyén Young Researcher's Fellowship.

The Officers looked at the levels of membership fees and the membership system and a proposal by the Treasurer for a more active strategy as regards CIB's investments.

The outcome of their discussions was transmitted to the AC where it constituted a significant input to a review of the specific topics.

### **Pro-Active Approach and Strategic Plan**

The Pro-Active Approach (See Information Issue Nr. 2/98) formed a major item for deliberation and the Officers recalled that its introduction and adoption by CIB had been the main outcome of the Strategic Plan which had been discussed at a specially convened Workshop in South Africa in May 1997.

It was recalled that the Strategic Plan, as formulated, highlighted a number of issues which CIB had to confront in the future and the Officers acknowledged that this placed the obligation on CIB to set itself certain measurable goals arising from these issues.

Seven such issues were identified and each will be specifically tackled by designated entities within CIB commencing with immediate effect.

These were:

- Industry Take-up of the Pro-Active Approach
- Membership and Why People Join or Leave
- Strategic Approach to Growth
- A Realistic Determination of the Relationship
- Costs : Benefits for Members
- Good Management of Financial/Personnel
- Resources of CIB
- Right Portfolio of Properly Run Activities
- Culture Change Towards Commitment

Together they will constitute the thrust of CIB's policy directions in the up-coming period.

All in all this meeting turned out to be a most useful curtain raiser for the meetings to follow and served as a helpful briefing session for the Officers in their subsequent discussions within the various Committees of the topics.

# 59TH MEETING OF THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE



**Dates : 12th and 13th October 1998**

Chair : Mr. Larry Little

CSIRO - Division of Building Construction & Engineering, Australia

## **Mission Accomplished**

As usual the Programme Committee (PC) faced a daunting agenda, charged as it is with assisting the Board with the planning and execution of the programme of activities (scientific and technical) and it says a lot for its chairman and willing members that it went through all the items well within the time span allotted.

Firstly, however, it had to make a recommendation to the CIB Board to fill the one vacancy remaining and the unanimous nomination was Professor C.H. Davidson, University of Montréal, IF Research Corporation, Montréal, Canada.

Long well known in CIB circles, Colin Davidson was a particularly apt choice since he was a specialist in information matters and later in the meeting was nominated for the Coordinatorship of the new Commission W102 (See below).

## **New Groups Established**

Passing on to the customary review of existing Task Groups and Working Commissions, the decision was taken to terminate one Task Group and, subject to certain conditions being met, to transform another into a Working Commission. Two new ones were created.

It should be made clear that the PC only halts an activity or initiates a new one after careful consultation with all the principal parties involved and when something is decided, it is almost always in line with the majority of opinion among the CIB membership, on the matter in question.

So TG13 - Consequences for Buildings of Climatic Variability and Climate Change was terminated and it was agreed to subsume it in an appropriate form into W080 - Service Life Prediction of Building Materials and Components.

TG15 - Construction: Conflict Management and Dispute Resolution was transformed into Working Commission 103. The conditions for the change mentioned above have since been met and so W103 is officially in existence. An invitation to nominate representatives appears on page 0, (Note the slightly different title by the way.)

Coordinators have rightly been labelled as the 'storm troopers' of CIB (by a distinguished Past President) and certainly there is no group within our Organisation who plays a more pivotal role in keeping the scientific and technical sector right in the forefront.

In Brisbane the PC appointed certain new ones and warm congratulations and good wishes for success are extended to them.

Those joining the ranks are :

- Professor Sergio Croce, Milan Polytechnic, Italy and
- Mr. Peter Trotman, BRE, United Kingdom as Joint Coordinators of W086 - Building Pathology.
- Dr. Philo M. Bluysen, TNO Bouw, The Netherlands as Joint Coordinator of TG28 - Dissemination of Indoor Air Sciences (joint CIB-ISIAQ Task Group).
- Mr. Bob Bowen, IRC - NRCC, Canada as the Coordinator of the newly established TG37 -

Performance Based Building Regulatory Systems.

- Mr. Alan Gilham, BRE, United Kingdom and Ms. Chrisna du Plessis, CSIR - BOUTEK, South Africa as the Joint Coordinators of the newly established TG38 - Urban Sustainability.
- Professor C.H. Davidson, IF Research Corporation, University of Montréal, Canada as Coordinator of the newly established W102 - Information and Knowledge Management in Building.

The PC also took time out for a searching look at itself and how it sets about its task of monitoring activities.

In fact it recognised that there were links to Strategic Policy here and activities logically lead to the issue of benefits for members. Not surprisingly, therefore, that some members of the PC pointed to their own need to have some fairly precise knowledge of the time which they devoted to CIB affairs.

A Sub-Committee was set up charged with producing a typology of benefits, outputs, activities and working areas accruing from participation in CIB's programmes.

This Sub-Committee will report back with its recommendations in due course.

An important point of access for a Coordinator to the Programme Committee is the PC Liaison for his or her Group and the PC made the appropriate appointments.

As one PC Member noted : the aim must be to create a sense of unity between Coordinators and PC Members by asking Coordinators what can the PC do for them.

## **External Relations**

External Relations is a topic that falls within the competency of the PC and the identification of appropriate counterpart organisations with whom to engage in collaborative projects of one sort or another forms an important component in this area.

Among such organisations to be considered at the Brisbane Meeting was the International Energy Agency, (IEA) with whom CIB has signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

The PC reviewed a list of 15 proposals for projects to be initiated by the IEA and others e.g. CIB and the EU.

The consensus was that Title 12 Protocol for Environmental Rating Systems had the most potential as a possible joint IEA - CIB activity and it is being looked into further.

The green light was given to CIB to sign a formal Memorandum of Understanding with the International Association of Surveyors (FIG) and there will be implications for certain Commissions and Task Groups once the co-operative ventures get under way.

## **Co-Sponsorship**

Another responsibility of the PC is to decide on requests for co-sponsorship by CIB of members' conferences, congresses etc.

At the Brisbane Meeting three events were approved for co-sponsorship. They were :

The Millennium Conference on Cities and Sustainability - Sustaining our Cultural Heritage to be held in Sri Lanka in February 2000 and Healthy Buildings 2000 which is the official Conference of ISIAQ - The International Society of Indoor Air Quality and Climate and CON - PAT '99 to be held in Montevideo, Uruguay.

Details of all CIB co-sponsored events are featured in the Section News of Forthcoming Meetings in

each issue of Information.

Prior to the PC Meeting the Chairman had exercised his prerogative to co-sponsor a meeting on behalf of the Committee as a whole. This was the 1999 Annual Technology Conference of the American Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture.

### **Pro-Active Approach**

A highlight at the PC Meeting was the comprehensive and forward looking report by Dr. Greg C. Foliente from CSIRO Building, Construction and Engineering in Victoria, Australia on the CIB Pro-Active Programme on Performance Based Building Codes and Standards.

The feeling was that new and exciting horizons had been opened up for CIB but no one was under any illusions as to the extent of the tasks which confronted CIB.

The PC decided to establish an ad hoc Committee which would be charged with examining the final Report on the Pro-Active Approach and providing an input designed to ensure that it would be managed in an appropriate way for optimal future use.

As regards other priority themes for the current Triennium, the PC decided that a prudent course of action would be to defer active engagement with other themes and to bring up Construction Facility Process Engineering at the next but one meeting of the PC.

A new Journal joined the select group of CIB Encouraged Journals. This is Engineering Construction and Architectural Management edited by Professor Ronald McCaffer from the Department of Civil and Building Engineering, Loughborough University, United Kingdom.

Other topics to receive attention from the PC were the Status of Agenda 21 for Sustainable Construction and the PC Coordinating Committee on Sustainable Construction, the Development of the CIB Home Page and future events including the Regional Research Leaders' Meeting and the Young Research Managers' Workshops.



## **40TH MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE**



**Date : 14th October 1998**

Chair : Professor E.K.M. Leppävuori, CIB Treasurer  
VTT Building Technology, Finland

### **Prof. Hartanto completes the team**

There was also a vacancy on the Administrative Committee (AC) to be filled and at its Brisbane meeting, the AC unanimously recommended that Professor Djoko Hartanto from the University of Indonesia should be appointed by the CIB Board.

### **Role of the AC**

Then it was down to business for the Committee.

It heard a report from the Treasurer on the discussions which had taken place in the Officers' Committee meeting earlier in the week concerning the role of the AC and members were fully in agreement that there were two issues which would demand their extra special attention during the current Triennium.

These were :

- A realistic determination of the relationship costs: benefits for members and
- Sound and effective management of financial matters and of human resources of CIB.

As it looked into these topics the AC took account of the attendant implications. For example, when seeking to quantify in some way what are the actual costs of membership of CIB, it had to be realised that the membership fee itself is but one component among several.

Other relevant factors picked out were to extend the customer satisfaction survey (which had been undertaken earlier among new members and which had yielded some interesting results) and to analyse CIB's product range.

A new and much more pro-active investment policy was agreed. The underlying aim was to use the revenue generated for special projects and services for the benefit of the CIB membership.

Staffing matters at the General Secretariat is an on-going task of the AC and these were duly considered.

### **Membership Fees**

Membership fees are decided by the CIB Board subject to ratification by the General Assembly and the Board is strongly guided by recommendations formulated by the AC. So this topic along with next year's budget of Income and Expenditure featured prominently. The AC's recommendations were duly agreed and transmitted to the Board.

In fact the AC will be playing a prominent role in a comprehensive review of the fee structure and membership system and its discussions at the Brisbane meeting were the first stage in this project.

This is a rather brief report and hardly reflects the intense and complex discussions that took place.

Suffice it to say that the AC which is charged by the By-Laws with assisting the Board with regard to general, administrative and financial matters' (among others) fully discharged its onerous tasks.



## **2ND MEETING OF THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE**



**Date : 14th October 1998**

Chair : Dr. R.V. Milford  
CSIRO - Division of Building Technology, South Africa

### **Publications - a vital medium**

Publications are for CIB one of the prime vehicles for disseminating the results of its WCs and TGs and the green and white covers have become a familiar sight on bookshelves of researchers around the world.

Moreover, the published output has shown a consistent increase over recent years which in part, reflects the situation whereby Commissions are zeroing in on fixed targets with a determined deliverable at the end.

### **Increase appeal to Industry**

Unfortunately, the impact of CIB Publications on industry has not matched that on the research community.

Indeed, with the exception of a few titles, a disappointing number of copies are ordered from outside the CIB circle.

This has been identified by the Publications Committee as one of the principal issues to be tackled during the current Triennium :

How to enhance the attractiveness of CIB Publications to industry.

During the discussions in Brisbane on this the Chairman highlighted the need to determine exactly what were the key drivers for producing publications and what were the key levers for encouraging publications that were attractive to industry.

There was agreement among the members of the Publications Committee that steps needed to be taken to obtain a feedback from representatives of industry by actually asking them what they felt were their needs.

### **Au fait with electronic trends**

Another topic that was high on the Agenda was what action was necessary to ensure that CIB - small as its publishing operation is - remained abreast of modern trends in electronic publishing and information dissemination.

Not that there is any shortage of relevant expertise in this area within CIB and the Publications Committee made a point of recording their encouragement to those Working Commissions who already have their own Home Page.

### **Unacceptable variance in quality**

Probably the most important issue to occupy the Committee is that of the quality of CIB's publications.

In its discussions, the Committee noted that the general perception seemed to be not so much that the overall quality was deteriorating but rather that it was variable.

So the Committee agreed that remedial action is called for and it is setting about devising a quality system.

Mention was made earlier of the relatively low volume of sales of CIB Publications outside the immediate membership circle (with a few notable exceptions) and an important factor here is the marketing and promotion policy to be followed. Naturally this aspect was extensively considered at the meeting and the future strategy is beginning to take shape.

### **Information disseminator or money spinner ?**

The Publications Committee did squarely address the fundamental issue as to whether CIB is to run its publishing operation as a revenue generator or as an activity to be undertaken on a cost recovery basis.

Chairman Rodney Milford expressed the Committees official viewpoint when he said that the primary objective is to utilise it as the means to disseminate knowledge.

### **Action Plan**

The meeting concluded with the decision to consolidate the various issues and contributions into an updated Action Plan which will be the blue-print for the future.



# 73RD MEETING OF THE BOARD



**Date : 15th October 1998**

Chair : Dr. J.R. Duncan, CIB President  
BRANZ - Building Research Association of New Zealand

## Board Responsibility

The new Constitution and By-Laws stipulate that the CIB Board is responsible for the acts of its Committees which makes it logical to schedule the Board Meeting for the end of the week of meetings.



[The latest developments with the CIB Home Page were a focal point of discussions at the meetings. Above Treasurer Erkki Leppavuori finds an item that catches his attention while Immediate Passt President christer Sjöström and Secretary General Wim Bakens look on]

[Chairman Larry Little (on the right) with President John Duncan and Christer Sjöström at the PC Meeting on 13 October]



The respective Chairmen present a summary report of what transpired at their meeting which includes the recommendations made to the Board.

As regards the recommendations tabled by the AC, the Board was called upon to make some far-reaching decisions which affect the entire CIB Membership.

Firstly, there was the matter of the 1999 membership fee levels.



[Deputy Secretary General Chris Pollington shows Prof. Djoko Hartanto (on left) newly appointed to the Administrative Committee, the latest CIB Publication]



[The Treasurer was in the Chair for the Meeting with (on his left) Vice President Roger Courtney and Wim Bakens]



In its recommendations on this point, the AC had drawn attention to the situation whereby fees had remained unchanged for three years.

After careful consideration the Board decided that the membership fees in 1999 should be increased by 5% as compared to the 1998 levels and that the membership fees should be invoiced in EUROS.

Moreover, the Board was of the opinion that it would materially aid members' forward planning if the fee levels were maintained unchanged for a period and it decided that the 1999 levels would be unaltered for the three year period 1999 - 2001.

[Professor Rod Troutbeck from QUT (facing camera) took some Board Members on a conducted tour of the capacious campus during one of the lunch intervals]



These matters require formal approval by the General Assembly before they can be introduced into practice. Since the Board Meeting, the necessary steps were taken to secure this approval and the new fees will be invoiced early in January 1999.

The AC had also submitted its proposed budget of Income and Expenditure 1999 and after some further amendments, this was approved by the Board.

### **Structural Review**

Next the Board carried forward the discussion which had taken place earlier in the meetings of the Officers' Committee and AC on a review of the fee structure and membership system.

The main principle under consideration was whether it would be feasible in the future to tie the level of the membership fee to the member's degree of activity in CIB.



[The Board in session on 15 October]

In other words the amount which a member was called upon to pay would be assessed on the basis of its involvement.

This is not a new issue and indeed it had been looked into in depth in the period leading up to the General Assembly in 1995.



[The Board posing for a group photograph inside and outside the building]

Certainly the discussion in the Board served to bring out the complexities of such a scheme, one of which is the risk of inhibiting members from being active in CIB since by so doing they would incur additions to their membership fees.

On the other hand there is justification for the view that an arrangement whereby those that opted to be more active should pay more, possesses some intrinsic merit.

It was not the intention of the Board to be rushed into a decision on this vital issue at its Brisbane meeting. The debate will go on at all levels in CIB to ensure that no important implication is overlooked.



### **PC Referrals**

The report of the PC meeting amply demonstrates that it got through a very full agenda and this meant that there was a considerable number of items tabled for further review and ratification by the Board.

The appointment of new Coordinators and the establishment of new Commissions and Task Groups as well as terminations were all approved.

Another interesting topic that received a thorough airing at the Board Meeting was that of CIB mediated training of members' staff.

### **Mediated Training**

On the table was a discussion paper by the President which advanced certain ideas to assist the Board in assessing whether this activity had sufficient potential benefit to members to justify carrying it forward.

A positive consensus emerged among Board Members as regards CIB's involvement in training while recognising the need to proceed with caution.

The next step will be to consider a joint proposal by the Universities of Florida and Salford which will be finalised over the coming month.

Plans outlined by the President for the next CIB Triennial World Building Congress in New Zealand in 2001 and the schedule for CIB meetings during the current Triennium were among the other items to receive attention.

### **A Productive Week**

The Board meeting brought the latest series of CIB policy meetings to a close.

By common consent it had been a highly productive week although the acid test will be : how far have the meetings advanced CIB's attainment of its mission and made membership more meaningful and

beneficial ?



[The hosts had spared no effort to give the CIB visitors a taste of the real Australia which had to include a display of sheep shearing and a kangaroo farm]



Obviously that cannot be answered at once but there was unanimous agreement on one point. That was appreciation to Professor Weilin Chang and his colleagues at the Queensland University of Technology for the outstanding arrangements which had been provided for the meetings.

Nor for a significant number of Board Members was this the end.

They stayed on for a notable first in a planned new series of CIB Meetings which was for Regional Research Leaders - on this occasion for Australasia and the Pacific Rim.



[Lily and Weilin Chang (shown with Wayne Drummond and Chris Pollington) received the thanks of everybody for what turned out to be a most productive and yet relaxing week]



[President John Duncan had the opportunity to transmit these in person to Weilin Chang at a reception at the Chang residence on 14 October and at the close of the final event on 18 October]



More about this subject, below.



**The First Regional Building Research Leaders' Meeting**



**16 - 18 October 1998**  
**Brisbane, Australia**

In formal soundings, market surveys and of course PC and Board consultations with members on the spot all augured favourably for the project of extending the well-established and successful series of Research Managers' Meetings to meetings on a regional basis.

As it turned out, the outcome of the first such regional meeting proved to be for more successful than even the positive signs had indicated.



**[Professor Weilin Chang (extreme right) and his staff had succeeded in bringing together an impressive array of participants for the first regional research leaders' meeting]**

This was due in no small measure to the efforts of Professor Weilin Chang and his colleagues at QUT who organised the meeting in Brisbane on 17th and 18th October 1998.

The facilities were, as expected, excellent and everything was conducive to a couple of days of relevant and meaningful presentations followed by fruitful discussions.



**[President John Duncan (left) and Secretary General Wim Bakens (below) opened and closed the meeting]**



Thirty-two participants from thirteen countries attended and the group included CIB Board Members, Coordinators and most importantly research managers from the region.

The aims of the meeting had been announced as being to provide:

- An opportunity for all leaders of building research in the region to meet
- An exchange of information, to share experiences and to compare results
- A platform for focussed discussion covering a broad range of building research issues
- The vehicle to develop regional cooperation in building research

The most significant benefit arising from the meeting was seen as the relevance of the discussions to

regional issues and interests.



[In fact it had really started with a welcome dinner on 16th October 1998 when Dr. Sherif Barakat addressed a festive gathering on International Collaboration: Aesthetic or Necessity]



[Sonja Lyneham, Chairman of Planning Workshop Australia, seen left in discussion with Wim Bakens and Chris Pollington, attracted much attention with her presentation which combined industrial, consulting and academic experience]

[These experiences reflected the individual situations of the speakers and they had been encouraged to bring documentation describing the activities of their own institutes. The resulting display was a useful adjunct for participants, to collect a set of models for future reference]



Participants came together the evening before the meeting for a welcome dinner at which Dr. Sherif Barakat set the scene for the next two days with an address on International Collaboration : Aesthetic or Necessity.

The next day 17th October 1998, Dr. J. Duncan the CIB President opened the Meeting and Dr. W. Bakens CIB Secretary General spoke on What Can CIB Offer

Thereafter the programme was as follows:

**Session: CIB Member Research Institutions**

Dr. J. Duncan, New Zealand

Presentation of the Centre of Built Environment at KTH  
Prof. C. Sjöström, Sweden

What are we intending in Construction Technology Developments  
Dr. T. Takeda, Japan

Building Research Establishment in the United Kingdom  
Dr. R. Courtney, UK

Critical Issues in Professional Education and Research  
Prof. W. Drummond, USA

**Session: Regional Building Issues**

Mr. L. Little, Australia

Energy Environment Research and Development in the Building Sector in Vietnam  
Prof. N.Huu Dung, Vietnam

Major Issues on the Urban Land Problems  
Mr. M. Pakpahan, Indonesia

Vernacular Landscape in Building Education Pacific Rim  
Dr. G. Cahyono, Indonesia

Introduction to the Research Activities in CABR  
Prof. Y.W. Wang, China

### **Scientific and Technical Session**

Dr. S. Barakat, Canada

Digital Building Models for Intranet Collaborative Design Computing  
Dr. K.P. Lam, Singapore

The Potential Role of AUBEA to Coordinate Research  
Dr. R. Kenley, Australia

Brazilian Experience on Blastfurnace Slag Recycling  
Prof. V. Agopyan

### **Forum**

Prof. W. Chang, Australia

Sustainable Urban Development  
Prof. S. Rowlinson, Hong Kong

Australian Centre for Construction Innovation  
Prof. Marton Marosszeky, Australia

2020 Megacities  
Prof. S. Lyneham, Australia

### **Networking, Future Collaborations**

Dr. J. Duncan, New Zealand

Summing Up and Closing  
Dr. W. Bakens, Netherlands



[As the report on the meeting shows, the programme had been composed to feature an international line up of speakers whose varied experiences could be brought to bear on the problems of the Region]





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