

1st Call for Papers



TG29 - Construction in Developing Countries

**2nd International Conference
on Construction Industry Development
and
1st Conference of CIB TG29 on**

**Construction in Developing Countries:
Construction Industry Development
in the New Millennium**

**27 - 29 October 1999
Singapore**

Organised by:

School of Building and Real Estate
National University of Singapore
in association with CIB

Background

The construction industry has complex links to most of the sectors of every nation's economy, and plays a key role in national development. The capability of a country's construction industry determines its attainment of social and economic progress. However, in most countries, the construction industry faces serious problems. It is common to find that the level of technological development, rate of innovation, and thus, productivity of the construction industry, are below the national average. In addition to its inadequacies and difficulties, the industry experiences pressure from changes within its operating environment. For these reasons, it is necessary for concerted action to be taken to develop the construction industry.

In developing countries, the problems facing the construction industry are more varied and go rather deeper. Their adverse effects are also more serious. At the same time, the resources and expertise for addressing them are scarce. Thus, the need for action is even more pressing.

The concept of construction industry development relates to the industries of nations at all levels of economic advancement. However, the necessary measures will differ for various categories of countries. Construction industry development may be defined as "the research and practical effort to improve upon the construction industry". In general, construction industry development embraces: human resource development; materials development; technology development; improvement of the business environment; corporate development; and institution building. In order to achieve progress in the development of the construction industry, research

and development (R&D) in each of the areas highlighted above should be integrated and future directions for construction industry development identified. There is also scope for exchange of knowledge between practitioners from different countries.

The Conference

The proposed conference will bring together researchers, academics, administrators and practitioners from all parts of the world, and countries at all levels of development, to share knowledge and experiences, and identify priority areas for research and initiatives in construction industry development. It will seek to attain progress in the body of knowledge on construction industry development. Part of the conference will focus specifically on the issues relating to developing countries.

The Organising Institutions

The School of Building and Real Estate at the National University of Singapore hosted the First International Conference on Construction Industry Development in Singapore which took place from 9 to 11 December 1997. It was organised in collaboration with the Construction Industry Development Board (Singapore), Construction Industry Institute (Australia), Construction Industry Institute (US) and the European Construction Institute. Some 150 participants from some 21 countries attended and around 100 papers were presented.

Objectives of the Conference

The objectives of the conference are:

- o to review progress in the field of construction industry development, consolidate achievements in it and identify strategies for the future

- to identify the problems facing the construction industries of developing countries, consider past works on possible solutions to them, and propose effective courses of action
- to determine the most effective way of planning for, and administering, the industry's growth, upgrading and expansion at various levels of economic development
- to promote intra-industry and international co-operation in the effort to improve the performance of the construction industry.

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses provide the basis for the conference:

1. developing the construction industry of any nation can lead to improved performance on projects, and by organisations
2. effective lessons can be learned from the experience of several countries in construction industry development.

Conference Themes

Theme A: The Industry - effective definition of the construction industry; state-of-the art of research on construction industry development; current and future trends influencing the industry, local and international; future of the industry; managing construction industry development; construction in the economy; sustainable construction; partnerships for construction industry development; strategic alliances between the construction industry and other sectors of the economy.

Theme B:

Construction in Developing Countries - development of contracting and consultant enterprises; documentation, procedures and practices; human resource development; materials development; technology development; building institutions and associations.

Theme C:

Development of Teams and Procedures - procurement approaches; contractual relationships; strategic alliances among practitioners and entities within the industry; cultural, legislative and institutional facilitators and constraints on the performance of construction enterprises and national industries; re-engineering the construction process and industry; benchmarking best practices.

Theme D:

Corporate Development - emerging global, regional and national trends in corporate development; entrepreneurship; corporate strategies; strategic planning for the construction enterprise; strategic alliances among home companies, and across nations.

Theme E:

Institution Building - legislation and procedures; central industry development agency; professional institutions and trade associations; national and regional industry umbrella bodies; government-industry linkages; self-help measures by industry; a global construction industry development organisation; integration with research institutions.

Theme F:

Resource Development - theories underlying R&D and innovation; effective management of R&D and innovation; application of R&D results for synergy; new materials; new technologies; information technology applications; regional and global construction databases; impact of the Internet; human resource management.

Theme G:

Project Management - new management techniques; trade-offs among project objectives (cost, time, quality, environment) and implications for development of the industry; productivity improvement;

cross-cultural influences; team building; leadership.

Language

The language to be used at the conference is English.

Abstracts and Papers

Abstracts of not more than 150 words should be submitted to the organising committee for consideration by the end of JANUARY 1999. Each Abstract should indicate the theme of the conference which the proposed paper will address, and give the name, address, fax number and e-mail address of the author to be contacted. Abstracts will be reviewed according to the relevance to themes of the conference; originality of the subject matter; likely academic rigour of the proposed paper; and likely contribution to knowledge, or practical relevance, of the contents of the proposed paper (as appropriate).

Authors will be advised of the Review Committee's decision on their papers as soon as possible thereafter. Completed papers should be submitted by 30 APRIL 1999. These will be subject to 'blind' refereeing. Authors will be notified of the referees' comments on their papers by 15 MAY 1999. Final versions of papers must be submitted by 30 JULY 1999. A Rapporteur will comment on the accepted papers under each theme.

Important Dates

Deadline for Submission of Abstracts
31 JANUARY 1999

Deadline for Submission of Papers for Consideration
30 APRIL 1999

Deadline for Submission of Final Versions of Papers
30 JULY 1999

Technical Programme

The conference will comprise a series of Keynote Papers by eminent researchers and practitioners, and presentation of technical programmes which have been subjected to rigorous peer review. Ample time will be provided for discussion after each paper. A rapporteur will be appointed to summarise the papers under each of the conference themes. Site visits to relevant projects will be arranged.

Proceedings

Each participant in the conference will be issued with a bound set of the papers to be presented. The conference proceedings (a selection of the papers presented, Rapporteurs' comments and summary of discussions) will be published by a leading commercial publishing house.

Social Programme

A social programme including a banquet, tours and cultural shows will be arranged.

Accompanying Persons' Programme

An Accompanying Persons' programme will be arranged through a professional tour agency in Singapore.

Conference Fees

The fees for the conference will be:

- Singapore Dollars 500 for Registration Before 15 September 1999
- Singapore Dollars 500 for Group Registration
(3 or more persons from One Organisation)
- Singapore Dollars 600 for Registration On or After 15 September 1999
(except Group Registration).

Contact Address

All correspondence concerning the conference (including submission of Abstracts and Papers) should be addressed to:

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