

TG35 - Innovation Systems in Construction



This Task Group was actually set up by the Programme Committee at its 58th Meeting in February 1998, (See Information Issue Nr. 4.98) but only now are we able to introduce its Coordinator, André Manseau.

Dr. André Manseau

André Manseau holds a Master Degree in Science Physics, a Master's Degree in Public Administration and a Doctorate in Management. He was Professor of Physics and subsequently Director of Continuing Education Services at the Edmundston Campus of the University of Moncton (Canada) from 1981 to 1989. He has been involved in the management of different research organizations, in both the public and the private sectors, in conjunction with pursuing his doctorate studies. Since 1996, he has acted as a strategic planning analyst at the National Research Council of Canada. Dr. Manseau is author or co-author of numerous articles and communications in technology strategic management and economic analysis of industrial innovation.



André Manseau had this to say when he took a look earlier at the future of TG35.

'Innovation policies have been essentially focused on R&D and Individual firm capabilities to develop and adopt new technologies. I feel that this approach has not well served the construction industry. Construction is a complex economic sector and numerous actors interplay in developing innovations, and within multiple regulations, standards and other framework conditions.

The TG35 agenda appears to me to hold out a promising way to assess and better understand innovation processes in construction. Outcomes from the studies will enable policy makers, industry practitioners and analysts to point out the most effective actions that could be undertaken to strengthen innovation in construction and its impact on the overall economy.

I am directly involved in the study of innovation systems in the Canadian construction industry and my role in TG35 will be to share our results and to support discussions and exchanges with other research teams and practitioners across the world. TG35 will provide a forum for an international comparison of innovation in construction and for developing strategies and policy instruments to improve innovation in this industry.'

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Just as we are going to press, André Manseau has sent a detailed report of the meeting of the TG35

Steering Committee which took place in London on 27 November 1998.

As he notes in his report : ' This was a very powerful meeting on key international issues in Construction Innovation.'

So as to inform members in depth of what transpired we are holding his report over to the next issue when we can feature it at length.