DO CIB PRODUCTS INTEREST INDUSTRY?

What role for the CIB Publishing Operation?

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CIB Products and Industry Introduction

There are various levels of scale and types of business in the construction industry, whose logical outcome is that there are wide variations in the interests for research results. I am not claiming that what follows is of general applicability; rather it describes my individual views. What can be stated with validity is that the construction industry itself is very local by nature, but it is increasingly progressing on the international front, where technology plays an important role.

CIB has published many papers since its inception. Recently the CIB Publications Committee established in 1995, decided that the Committee should report directly to the CIB Board, the Programme Committee and Administrative Committee on issues as appropriate. The primary aim of the publishing operation is to disseminate knowledge. The new, future oriented CIB Publications policy is to enhance the attractiveness of CIB Publications to the industry and this has fuelled intense discussions. One idea is to write those publications aimed at the industry quite separately from "normal" CIB Publications. Another idea is to strengthen the trend of publishing papers attractive to the industry in CIB Commissions or CIB Task Groups such as International Status Reports, State-of-the-Art Reports or Best Practice Reports. A recent response to the needs of industry was the publication of CIB Proceedings with the sub-title from Research to Practice. This seems to be a successful approach.

Interests in R & D in each country

Construction industries are influenced by the climate and geography, as well as by the politics, economics and traditional cultures in each country.

For example, in the hot and humid zone of Japan in summer, it has long been the practice to build an open air type of wooden houses. Recently, many airtight houses have appeared, where the interests are mainly with air conditioning in summer and with problems of air quality including chemical hazards arising from materials used.

As another example, more than 6,000 persons died at the Awaji-Hanshin Earthquake in 1995. The cause of death was, in the main, attributable to the collapse of houses and fire. Consequently, disaster mitigation is a very important theme.

These examples demonstrate that every country has its own special interests. But some of them are also common to other countries, for example, productivity improvement by means of construction automation or information technologies.

Recent interest of CIB publications

My strong perception is that CIB's viewpoint is becoming increasingly Global. The global environmental
problem does excite the interest of the industrial world from the standpoint of life cycle of buildings, energy conservation technology, long-life building technology, remediation technology of contaminated soils and recycling technology. It is important not only for people, but also for the economy. Furthermore, performance based codes and standards, which appear as the CIB Pro-Active Program will be interesting for the global industrial world. It is worthy of attention how innovation plays an important role in the progress of performance-based concepts and practice and these should be integrated in CIB.

**Information needed directly and rapidly**

The construction industry has a responsibility to supply high quality space which provides society with safety and amenities, while paying due consideration to economics and the environment. Demands for safety and amenities change with time in their amount and nature, so flexibility is needed to accommodate them. Accordingly, it is necessary to have the innovative information of individual and total processing of design, execution, and maintenance and demolition and also to obtain information on innovative materials including new material application. The objective of science is to clarify the paradigm and laws of nature and technology and then to utilise them through their application to the real world.

It is very important for industry to obtain useful results from the output of fundamental scientific research. What generally tends to happen, however, in that nowadays circumstances simply do not allow enough time to translate them into technology. Thus industry has an interest in getting innovative and better technology information directly from CIB publications which will yield economic and social benefit.

As mentioned above, the publication of the research and the development which realise these demands is expected. I sincerely hope that in the future excellent performance technology in construction will be utilised around the world.

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