

## CIB in Gainesville 1999

1999 Meetings of the Policy Forming Organs:

- [The Officers Committee](#)
- [The Programme Committee](#)
- [The Administrative Committee](#)
- [The Publications Committee](#)
- [The Board](#)

and

- [The Annual General Assembly in words and pictures](#)

Professor Wayne Drummond and his colleagues at the University of Florida, Gainesville, USA were the hosts for the Spring 1999 series of CIB Policy Meetings last March.

And outstanding hosts they proved to be. The excellent arrangements and generous hospitality which were provided combined to create a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere which was conducive to productive and fruitful discussions.

There was one notable addition to the established set of Board and Standing Committee Meetings and that was the first Annual General Assembly of CIB. Hitherto, as Members will be aware, these have been held on a three yearly basis to mark the end of one triennium and the beginning of another. Now the new CIB Constitution and By-Laws stipulate that it should take place every year.

All in all, much came out of these Meetings which hopefully will in due course turn out to be to the benefit of the Membership. Strategic planning is now the order of the day in CIB as it seeks to position itself to fulfil a vital role in the next Century. Relevant issues were turned over in lengthy discussions and a common strand throughout was the recognition that CIB Membership must represent Value For Money.

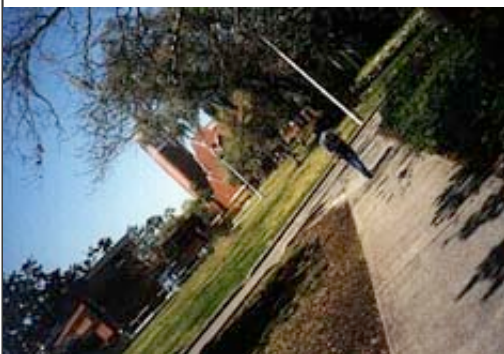
Certainly the Meeting served to demonstrate that there are some exciting projects underway in CIB, not least being the Pro-Active Approach which has been explained in the previous section. At the same time, some of the more recently appointed Board Members and Standing Committee Members pointed up the need for CIB to review its communication strategy so that all involved are equipped with the appropriate information base to enable them to engage in meaningful participation. President John Duncan regards this as a task meriting top priority.

Meanwhile the CIB Board warmly thanks Wayne Drummond and colleagues for all they did and for the information of the CIB Membership a summary report on each meeting is presented below.

### THE CIB MEETINGS IN GAINESVILLE



Above, the CIB Board poses behind the classic emblem of the University of Florida on its spacious campus.



# 2nd Meeting of the Officers' Committee



Date: 14th March 1999

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

As previously noted the Officers' Committee is a new policy advisory organ which actually takes over the slot of the regular Officers' Meetings which have proved their worth over recent years.

This second meeting of the new body opened with the confirmation that all the formalities legal and otherwise that were necessary to bring the new CIB Constitution and By-Laws into operation had been successfully concluded some time previously. This was welcome information since it has been the Officers more than any other body which had expended time and effort into finalising the new Constitution for eventual ratification by the General Assembly.

The award of the annual Gy. Sebestyén Young Researcher's Fellowship is the prerogative of the Officers and the meeting discussed the 5th Fellowship for 1999. Five applications were on the Table and after careful consideration of each (the Officers had of course received them in advance), the collective decision was that none of them fulfilled the absolute conditions as laid down and consequently that no award of the Fellowship would be made in 1999.

As regards the year 2000 the opinion was that the General Secretariat should commence publicity much earlier in the year and measures should be taken to ensure that the existence of the award is disseminated as widely as possible within the CIB Member Institutes.

Next year's theme will be Sustainable Construction and notification and an invitation to apply can be found [here](#) of this issue of Information.

The Officers discussed various staffing matters at the General Secretariat and engaged in an in-depth analysis of the Financial Scenario for the period 2001-2003 and the Budget of Income and Expenditure for the Year 2000 which had been submitted by the General Secretariat.

These discussions were undertaken within the framework of its advisory function and the outcome was transmitted through the Treasurer to the Administrative Committee where it constituted a significant input to the review of the specific topics.

A substantial part of the Meeting was given over to discussing certain strategic issues which had been identified at the previous meeting. One of these was the Take-Up by Industry of the Pro-Active Approach (see [here](#) for the detailed background) and it was noted that the consideration of the goal of obtaining significant support from industry for CIB needed a sharper focus. This implied that there should be fairly precise knowledge of what the customer could deliver.

The most visible benefit which CIB could offer was the opportunity for international collaboration and it was up to CIB to demonstrate to industry how it could profit from this in return for paying money to CIB.

Then the Committee addressed itself to two items of extreme importance:

- o The Reasons why people join OR leave CIB
- o The Optimal Strategic Approach to Membership Growth over the period of the current Triennium 1999-2001

The Secretary General had prepared two submissions on these topics by way of discussion starters. The need to obtain a comprehensive insight into the expectations and aspirations of members was accepted and the plan is to mount a membership survey designed to elicit this data. (So members can expect a

communication on this in due course.)

Four other issues were considered. These were:

- Determination of the Relationship Costs - Benefits for Members
- Good Management of Financial/People Resources of CIB
- Right Portfolio of Properly Run Activities
- Culture Change Towards Commitment

The Officers noted that if these directions were to be successfully pursued realistic measures of quality would have to be devised. Moreover these would need to be thought up by the parties most intimately involved, e.g. Coordinators. After all, as Vice President Roger Courtney pointed out: Nobody would want to be a Coordinator in what was perceived to be a non-quality organisation.

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 individual Officers when they came to look again at the topics in the various Committees.

### **IN SESSION...**



By tradition it is the Officers' Committee which kicks off the series of policy meetings.

The President takes the chair and above left John Duncan has Secretary General Wim Bakens and Treasurer Erkki Leppävuori on his right.



Also at the meeting were Vice President Jack Snell, Immediate Past President Christer Sjöström and Programme Committee Chairman Larry Little.

The PC Chairman became an Officer under the terms of the new Constitution and By-Laws.



## 60th Meeting of the Programme Committee



Date: 15th March 1999

Chair: Mr. L.R. Little, CSIRO - Division of Building Construction & Engineering, Australia

The very nature and scope of its tasks mean that the Programme Committee is always confronted with a formidable agenda. In Gainesville, constraints of time meant that one whole day rather than one and one half could be allocated for its business. By dint of application it succeeded in transacting all that it was scheduled to do within the time available, even if some of the discussions had to be prematurely curtailed.

As is customary, the Programme Committee undertook a review of existing Task Groups and Working Commissions. The net outcome of this was to recommend the termination of three Task Groups and the establishment of two new ones.

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

Background to the three terminations is given below.

- **TG16 - Best Practice for Sustainable Construction**

The Programme Committee took note that this Task Group had finalised its planned International Best Practice Report which it is looking forward to see with great anticipation. Its Coordinator, Dr. Charles Kibert, had earlier put forward a proposal for a new Task Group on Deconstruction, which was accepted. (See [here](#).)

- **TG24 - Application of Virtual Reality in Construction**

This Task Group, too, had finalised its planned International State of the Art Report in the format of a Home Page. (Coordinator Prof. Raymond Issa gave a vivid demonstration of this in his lunch time presentation to the Board.)

In fact Prof. Issa had a series of suggestions by the TG24 Membership for the next steps. He acknowledged that VR was evolving continuously and that updating of the State of the Art Analysis would be necessary.

An important corollary which the Programme Committee added to its recommendation was that TG24 should henceforth continue as a Sub-Group of W078 - Information Technology in Construction.

- **TG30 - Computer Assisted Learning in Building and Property**

A review of its situation prompted the Programme Committee to recommend terminating TG30 and to invite its members to give their serious consideration to joining W089 - Building Research and Education.

The Programme Committee did expressly record its thanks to the three Coordinators of these TGs -

Professors Kibert, Issa and Sloan - for their leadership and indeed to all the members for their input over a period.

The two new Task Groups recommended for establishment are:

- **TG39 - Deconstruction** with Dr. C. Kibert, University of Florida, USA and Dr. Lars Myhre, Norwegian Building Research Institute as Joint Coordinators

and

- **TG40 - Informal Settlements** with Ms. Liana De Bustillos, Centroccidental Lisandro Alvarado University, Venezuela and (subject to certain conditions being met) Dr. Graham Tipple as Joint Coordinators.

Further details on these and an invitation to Members to nominate representatives can be found [here](#).

Ratification of two earlier recommendations for appointment as Coordinators was made.

These concerned:

- Mr. David Stone, United Kingdom for TG37 - Performance Based Building Regulatory Systems, and
- Dr. Danny Then, Queensland University of Technology, Australia for W070 - Facilities Management and Maintenance

As it reviewed the existing Groups and Commissions the Programme Committee took note of several very promising projects.

One such was the planned International Journal on Construction and Developing Countries by TG29. The Programme Committee recommended that the amount of 10.000 Euros should be made available from the CIB Developing Countries Fund as a deficit guarantee for the first two years of the Journal's existence. This recommendation was accepted. One hope is that it will be feasible to distribute this Journal in electronic format in addition to the paper format via the CIB Home Page.

The modus operandi of TGs and WCs always occupies the Committee's attention as it strives, in consultation with Coordinators, for an optimal system acceptable to all.

The meeting took a step along this path by refining and issuing a revised draft version of the Guidelines for Coordinators of Working Commissions and Task Groups. These had earlier been prepared by the General Secretariat and have since been submitted to Coordinators in the form of a preliminary draft.

In its discussions, it also encouraged the development of a scheme for recording the planned but not yet realised output for each TG and WC. It is already engaged in an on-going exercise to devise a suitable method for the typology of CIB's activities.

The Agenda item External Relations gave rise to discussions on collaboration with among others the International Iron and Steel Institute, the International Energy Agency (subject Environmental Labellings), the International Federation of Surveyors (see [here](#)) and the International Union of Building Centres.

Members will be kept fully in the picture about these as events unfold.

A topic accorded pre-eminent attention at the meeting was the Pro-Active Approach and the follow-up action. This is one of the major responsibilities of the Programme Committee and readers are referred to [here](#) for the background to the concept.

It agreed that CIB should pursue under the theme "Performance Based Building Codes and Standards" the following three key topics which it judged as being of extreme importance and it assigned an order of relative priority to them as shown.

### **Order of Priority Topic**

- 1 Compendium of validated models of building performance
- 2 Report on economic benefits of using the performance approach
- 3 Compendium of statements of objectives and functional requirements

The Programme Committee recognised that Dr. G. Foliente possessed the attributes necessary to be a successful 'Champion' to progress the Pro-Active Approach for the theme "Performance Based Building Codes and Standards".

In fact the Programme Committee envisaged one prime task of the Leader as being the synergise the efforts of the various TGs and WCs in moving the project forward.

It anticipated that at least the following Groups would participate:

- o TG37 - Performance Based Building Regulatory Systems
- o W060 - Performance Concept in Building

and also

- o W055 - Building Economics
- o W065 - Organisation and Management of Construction
- o W080 - Prediction of Service Life of Building Materials and Components

Then it was the turn of the Programme Committee to take a look at Strategic Issues and three were subjected to its scrutiny.

- o Right Portfolio of Properly Run Activities
- o Culture Change Towards Commitment
- o Industry Take-Up of the Pro-Active Approach

As regards the first two, Chairman Larry Little led the discussions in the direction of potential measures of quality and tabled his own list to catalyse discussion.

The Programme Committee added six more which were:

- o Quality
- o Impact
- o Member Participation
- o Output
- o Formation of new Groups in line with Pro-Active Approach
- o Event Satisfaction

With the inclusion of these measures for quality a system for monitoring progress made by CIB's Commissions will be developed by the CIB Programme Committee, naturally in communication with the CIB Coordinators.

Other topics that were discussed included CIB Encouraged Journals, Development of the CIB Home Page and arrangements for the next Research Managers' Meeting and Young Research Managers' Workshop.

Next day it was the Programme Committee who met and full marks to the Chairman Larry Little and Members above for compressing the heavy agenda into the space of one day.



For Colin Davidson (left foreground) this was his first time as an official member of the PC. He has, of course, been a stalwart in CIB affairs particularly in matters relating to information for very many years.



Professor X. Liu from the Department of Civil Engineering, Tsinghua University, China was especially interested in the proceedings since he will be hosting the CIB meetings in China next year. On his right, Deputy Secretary General Chris Pollington is occupied with recording the Minutes.

## **THE LOCAL PRESENCE**

It has become well established practice for Coordinators from the Host Country to make a special presentation to the Programme Committee on what is going on in their Group. It also provides an excellent opportunity for PC Members to get acquainted at first hand with certain CIB Commissions with whom they rarely come into contact.



The University of Florida has more Coordinators than any other single member and among those who addressed the PC were Prof. Raymond Issa, TG24 - Application of Virtual Reality in Construction (since terminated), Dr. Robert Stroh, W063 - Affordable Housing and Dr. Rick Coble, W099 - Safety and Health on Construction Sites.



## 41st Meeting of the Administrative Committee



Date: 16th March 1999

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

Personnel Matters and Finances were the two principal topics to have engaged the attention of the Administrative Committee at its Gainesville Meeting. Each, however, encompasses a wide field.

A report from the Secretary General was discussed and the Committee took the view that it was important for the future to have in place appropriate and relevant Human Resource policies. These must go hand in hand with a quality system as indeed must all CIB operations.

In fact at another meeting the President went so far as to affirm that any involvement with CIB must be "a quality experience".

If CIB is to achieve its avowed objectives it must have an Administrative Arm in the form of the General Secretariat that is capable of providing the back-up necessary. So the Administrative Committee discussed such practical matters as job descriptions and accountability.

Virtually all CIB's multi-faceted operations are now conducted within the broad framework of an agreed policy.

Thus the Administrative Committee examined the latest position of the CIB Investment Portfolio and evaluated the parameters that guide its management. An important yardstick that was agreed was that profits realised should in the main be applied to create new CIB products or services of benefit to members rather than to finance current operations.

The Committee discussed and noted the Reports for 1998 from the Internal Auditors and the Committee of Examination. These will henceforth be an annual requirement as stipulated in the Constitution and By-Laws.

The External Auditor's Report for 1998 was carefully analysed prior to its presentation to the CIB Board and the Committee took the opportunity to zero in on the significant trends which could be picked up from the results. These were an important input to its discussion of next year's Budget of Income and Expenditure.

Four Strategic Issues featured on the Agenda of the Administrative Committee. These were:

- o Determination of Relationship Costs-Benefits for Members
- o Good Management of Financial/People Resources of CIB
- o Strategic Approach to Membership Growth 1999-2001
- o Membership and Why People Join or Leave

In the discussions, attention was concentrated on three main areas which concerned CIB's competitiveness as compared to other international organisations and what did members really perceive as being the benefits accruing from membership. In other words and this was the third focus of attention: Is membership of CIB considered to be value for money?

The Administrative Committee is working on a timetable that requires final proposals on the future CIB Fee Structure and Membership System to be ready for submission to the CIB Board at its First Meeting in the Year 2000.

The deeper the Committee looked into these matters, the more it served to reinforce the proposal that had emerged from the meeting of the Officers' Committee, which was that accurate answers to many questions were lacking and that a useful input reflecting the views of the CIB membership would be obtained by a properly designed customer satisfaction survey. The Committee gave serious thought to the contents, structure and target groups of the survey.

The foregoing is a somewhat bald report and perhaps does not do justice to 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.

**THE COMMITTEES PREPARE FOR THE BOARD**



Matters of moment are clearly capturing the attention of the Administrative Committee above. From left to right: Christer Sjöström, Erkki Leppävuori who as Treasurer took the Chair, Wim Bakens and Roger Courtney.



At the other end of the table but equally pre-occupied were Rafaël Slama (foreground) and in the middle of the picture the President John Duncan who is ex-officio a member of all Standing Committees.



## 3rd Meeting of the Publications Committee



Date: 16th March 1999

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

In his Report to the Board Meeting which followed, Publications Committee Chairman Rodney Milford said that the Committee had not set out to formulate a set of definite recommendations to the Board.

Rather the objective had been to continue to discuss the main topics which were within the Committee's remit and which formed the contents of the Revised Action Plan which the Chairman had tabled at the meeting.

One of these was the perennial question of how to enhance the attractiveness of CIB Publications to Industry.

The meeting had the benefit of two interesting case studies from CIB Board Member Jack de Leeuw and guest Prof. Jimmie Hinze from the University of Florida, both of whom had chalked up successes in the past for generating interest from industry in their published output.

Dr. Takeda also distributed a statement of those topics which he judged would evince interest from the side of industry.

There was a strong consensus within the Publications Committee that the published output of Task Groups and Working Commissions was such a valuable stock of knowledge that a consistent policy should be applied through the respective Coordinators as to how that knowledge should be given printed form.

The variable quality of CIB Publications has long been recognised by the Committee and discussions on implementing a suitable quality system were carried forward. One aspect that did become clear was that peer review of papers within CIB is here to stay.

Another item that featured on the Agenda was the position that CIB should seek to occupy in Electronic Publishing. The CIB Home Page was considered to be proceeding in a highly satisfactory way but the potential of other electronic applications including CD-ROM certainly calls for investigation.

Marketing and Promotion and collaboration with one or more commercial publishing houses were also topics that received attention.

This is a CIB Committee whose activities do not go into abeyance once its annual meeting is over. Communication between its members is pursued on a continuing basis and Chairman Rodney Milford will shortly be issuing the latest set of aims and actions to be followed.



The Publications Committee which met on the same day as the Administrative Committee with Rodney Milford in the Chair had the benefit of a guest attendance by Prof. Jimmie Hinzie (right), Director of the M.E. Rinker, Sr. School of Building Construction at the University of Florida who drew on his wealth of experience to present a couple of highly relevant case studies.



## 74th Meeting of the Board



Date: 17th March 1999

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

The CIB Board began its meeting by filling the vacancy caused by Dr. M. Ben-Bassat having accepted a new appointment at the Israeli Ministry of Construction. His successor had to be from Israel and the unanimous decision was to appoint Prof. David Yankelevsky who was the new Director of the National Building Research Institute in Israel.

Next, the Board heard reports from the Chairmen of the Standing Committees which had held their meetings during the days immediately preceding the Board Meeting (and these have been described in the foregoing).

It should be made clear that these Reports are not just presented as a simple formality for the Board to ratify what took place. On the contrary, the Board looks very carefully at all decisions and recommendations originating from these Committee meetings and subjects them to further scrutiny.

The Board approved the appointment of new Coordinators and the establishment of new Task Groups as well as terminations or reconstitutions of existing groups, as made by the Programme Committee.

It spent considerable time in carrying forward the earlier discussions in the Programme Committee on the Pro-Active Approach and the proposed programme on Performance Based Building Codes and Standards.

There was agreement that Dr. Greg Foliente was the man to lead the follow-up and the Board reaffirmed its appreciation for the highly competent and effective work which he and his colleagues had so far executed in the matter.

This discussion led on to a consideration of Agenda 21 for Sustainable Construction as a second Theme under the Pro-Active Approach, and here the Board noted that the third draft will be out at any time now. Moreover, a special issue of Building Research and Information is planned.

There were several items of fundamental importance from the meeting of the Administrative Committee to occupy the Board's attention.

Firstly, it approved the submission on its behalf of the Auditor's Report for 1998 to the Annual General Assembly. Then it examined the proposed budget of income and expenditure for the year 2000.

But right at the top of the list of financial topics was the Board's on-going review of the Fee Structure and Membership Fee System. Once again the critical importance of membership representing value for money was stressed.

As the discussion proceeded the view emerged that while more detailed data was still required before any firm conclusions could be drawn, the eventual outcome might be to retain the principles of the present fee system but with alterations to the actual levels. Not that the actual membership fee itself could be regarded as the only cost of membership.

The Annual General Assembly which was scheduled for immediately after the Board Meeting would receive and discuss the Board Report for 1998.

The Board Meeting afforded members a final opportunity to comment on individual points contained in this Report. This enabled the Board to take another look at an issue that had been raised at the General Assembly in Gävle in 1998 which was that of having direct representation on the Board for Coordinators.

It was recognised that one of the difficulties was to avoid ending up with merely token representation. As a first step, it was agreed to invite those Coordinators who would be present at the 8th Conference on Durability of Building Materials and Components shortly to be held in Vancouver and at the Symposium on Customer Satisfaction in September 1999 in Cape Town to take part in a Coordinators' Meeting to be organised on behalf of the Board.

As the accompanying photographs show, there was an interesting interlude at the Board Meeting when the Officers of the University of Florida CIB Student Chapter spoke about their activities. The Board was sufficiently impressed to lend its official endorsement to the concept of student chapters and it was resolved to discuss ways for its appropriate development in the future.

The idea of a CIB Encouraged Training Course is still very much alive although the earlier proposal of a Summer School, at least in the form originally envisaged, is in abeyance.

At the Board Meeting, Prof. Barrett and Prof. Issa from the Universities of Salford, UK and Florida, USA respectively outlined their joint plans. A model of a Distance Learning Course was circulated among Board Members. This is a topic of potential interest to Members and the Board will be pursuing the matter.

As the preceding reports show, each of the Standing Committees discussed one or more of the seven strategic issues to which it has been decided to give special attention during the current Triennium.

The Board, not surprisingly, addressed all seven and indeed the President prefaced these particular discussions by observing that they should feature regularly on the Agenda of the first substantive Board Meeting of each Triennium.

Many and varied aspects were explored and tasks and responsibilities assigned to progress them by the stipulated dates.

All in all this turned out to have been a busy day for Board Members but it was far from over since, after a short pause, the 1999 Annual General Assembly commenced.



The Board was not far short of its maximum possible complement when it met on 17th March. It finalised the Reports from its Standing Committees and completed the constitutional formalities for the General Assembly that followed immediately afterwards.



Other Board Members from left to right: Treasurer Leppävuori, T. Bánky and Professor X. Liu.

## UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA CIB CHARTER STUDENT CHAPTER



A highly interesting interlude at the Board Meeting was a series of presentations by the Officers who enlarged on the objective of establishing a worldwide network between students and professionals with the emphasis on construction research. The CIB Board will be looking into the feasibility of introducing the concept of student chapters into CIB.



## The 1999 Annual Meeting of the General Assembly



Date: 17th March 1999

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

This was the first in what will henceforth be an annual event and represented a major departure from traditional practice whereby General Assemblies have been held every three years.

The Agenda as well as the frequency is largely dictated by the stipulations in the Constitution and By-Laws.

One of the most important items is to consider the Report from the CIB Board in respect of the preceding year. This incorporated the Financial Report for 1998 and an Activities Inventory for 1998. It had been made available to the Membership in advance and a full length copy had been reproduced in Issue 1/99 of CIB Information.

The President introduced this Report to the General Assembly and highlighted certain salient points. One was his reminder to the General Assembly that there was still a vacancy on the Board which the Board had been authorised to complete by co-option. It was planned to fill this by a representative from industry and a search to identify the right candidate was being actively pursued.

He next summarised the main thrust of the discussions in the different meetings related to the strategic issues. A Report on behalf of the Chairman of the Programme Committee and one by the Treasurer were presented. Both of these covered certain fundamental aspects of policy.

Various financial statements pertaining to 1998 were discussed and where so required by the Constitution and By-Laws were approved.

In accordance with Article 10.5 of the Constitution the General Assembly appointed the two members of the Committee of Examination for 1999. In line with the recommendation made through the Board by the

Administrative Committee these were Mr. W.R. Pullen, Government Building Department, Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, The Hague, Netherlands and Mr. B. Bronsema, Technical Association for Installations in Buildings, Leusden, Netherlands.

Before finally closing the General Assembly the President did institute a brief discussion on the format which the Annual General Assembly might take in the future. He recognised that, as it was, there was really very little inducement for members to attend apart from those who were domiciled in the vicinity. As had been expected only a handful had participated other than CIB Board Members.

He expressed a special word of thanks to them. The feeling was that probably the General Assembly should be bracketed with some other event to stimulate more members to attend.

The Minutes of the General Assembly are accessible as a downloadable document in the CIB Home Page in the section FTP-Services for Members.

That concluded the 1999 series of CIB Policy Meetings in Gainesville but these Reports would not be complete without affirming the thanks of the CIB Board to all Coordinators and CIB Members for their collective contributions throughout 1998.

The columns of successive issues of Information do provide some indication of the varied and fruitful directions which these inputs take.

C.E. Pollington

#### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR BOARD?**



The confusion is understandable since the 1999 Annual General Assembly was held in the same room as the Board Meeting and immediately afterwards. Not surprisingly it was Board Members who made up the bulk of the attendance. To stimulate participation in the future, thought is being given to organising another event (A workshop or Symposium etc.) at the same time.

