W086 - Building Pathology

The Joint Coordinators Peter Trotman and Sergio Croce opened the Commission Meeting of W086 on 30th May 1999.

Michael Lacasse, Organiser of the 8th DBMC, introduced the aims of the Conference and explained the links with Building Pathology.

Wim Bakens gave an insight into the current thinking in the CIB Board as regards the implementation of the Pro-Active Approach. (The Pro-Active Approach is now a major cornerstone in CIB's programmes and its significance has been extensively discussed in the previous issue of INFORMATION 2/99.) The intention is that CIB will adopt a pro-active approach which will result in 'products' being available to industry and hopefully individual Commissions will take on a commitment to produce a certain deliverable within a stated timescale.

Those attending the meeting then introduced themselves.

A series of papers from members were presented.

Bill Porteous, the previous Coordinator, who was warmly thanked for his efforts, spoke on some recent trends in New Zealand building failures. Bill pointed out that consideration was given to durability in the New Zealand building codes. Minimum times were specified for performance of items, e.g. for timber frame construction - 30-year life for beams and joists - 5 years for claddings. Access must be provided where replacement may be needed.

As a case study Bill recounted situations where traditional lapped weatherboarding had been replaced by autoclaved compressed fibre/cement sheets.

Dave Wyatt, who briefly described his involvement with ISO 15686, took as his title How I see neglect, decay and service life in the development of a whole life practice and what I have been doing.

Carl Cash's paper on Developments in roofing systems durability estimating - Polymer dispersion in modified asphalts reviewed the difficulties of predicting performance of roofing systems where laboratory test methods and observed service life do not provide a constant relationship. A method for estimation of the durability of steep and low slope roofs was presented.

Vasco P. de Freitas presented Case Studies on Humidity and Pathology. He covered areas where measurements, i.e. thermography can provide valuable data. Case studies dealt with epoxy resins for flooring; use of timber for ground floors and ceramic tiling on roofs and consideration for drainage requirements.

As regards Case Studies there was a general agreement that a useful if major item of work would be to develop a set of case studies of defects and failures. It was proposed that each member should provide at least one case study (and preferably more than one) towards a W086 data bank.

An interesting proposal was put forward by Bill Porteous that members should contribute to a list of ten Universal Truths, which have to be remembered by designers if they are to avoid defects and failures.

Bill gave two examples:

- water flows uphill
Members were invited to forward a list to Peter Trotman at BRE.

**Future Meetings**

The schedule for the next two meetings of W086 will be:

- 18th June 2000 in Lisbon, Portugal

This will be preceded on 17th June 2000 by a Regional Workshop and followed by a TG36 Conference from 19th to 21st June 2000.

- April 2001 in New Zealand in conjunction with the CIB World Building Congress

2nd from left: Bill Porteous, former W086 Coordinator; 3rd and 4th from left: Peter Trotman and Sergio Croce, current W086 Coordinators; 5th from left: Liana Arrieta de Bustillos, Coordinator of TG40; 6th from left: Angelo Lucchini, W094 Coordinator; and next to him: Ana Ines de la Fuente, President of CIB Co-Sponsored Conference CONPAT 99. [More about CONPAT 99](#)