

TG35 - INNOVATION SYSTEMS IN CONSTRUCTION

The 2nd Annual Workshop Meeting

In presenting a progress report on the status of the work of the Task Group TG35 Coordinator André Manseau reviewed plans for the book on current public policies and innovation in the construction industry. He announced that to date, twelve countries had committed themselves to compiling a paper that would form a Chapter of the book. The following are the participating countries and main authors:

- Argentina, Dora Mabel Zeballos
- Australia, Keith Hampson
- Canada, André Manseau
- Chile, Alfredo Serpell
- Denmark, Henrik Bang and Sten Bonke
- Finland, Tapio Koivu
- France, Elisabeth Campagnac and Jean Luc Salagnac
- Germany, Thomas Cleff
- The Netherlands, Joris Meijaard
- South Africa, Rodney Milford
- United Kingdom, Graham Winch
- USA, Richard Belle

Two other participants had in addition expressed their strong interest in the project and confirmation was awaited: Roberto de Oliveira (Brazil) and Jorge Lopes (Portugal). He recalled that CIB had recently published "Growth and Future Developments of R&D in the Japanese Construction" ([CIB Report 218](#), July 1998). This had been edited by Dr. Shin Okamoto with Chris Pollington CIB Deputy Secretary General as Associate Editor. The contents featured some elements that might provide a good start for Japanese participation.

New Papers on National Situations

Joris Meijaard, Erasmus University, presented the Netherlands Report followed by Alfredo Serpell, Catholic University of Chile, for Chile.

Keith Hampson, from the Queensland University of Technology, addressed a few words on the Australian situation. The Government is a major client of construction in Australia, as well as the most important source of funds for R&D in this sector. An Action Plan for Construction had been released in April 1999 which provided focused development priorities for the sector. And even more recently, in July 1999, a Research Green Paper had been published to promote collaborative R&D.

South African current public policies were briefly described by Spencer Hogson (Public Works) during the Symposium, on 6th September. A White Paper for Public Works was recently adopted by the Government in May 1999. Rodney Milford, CSIR - Boutek, agreed to provide a complete paper for the November 1999 meeting of TG35.

From the ensuing discussion, participants observed that public policies were probably quite different as between developed and developing countries, although lessons could certainly be learned from each other.

Some participants suggested reviewing the proposed typology of programmes in order to identify those

that reduce costs of developing innovation and those that provide rewards to innovators (the latter supporting a market for innovations).

Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Steering Committee (main authors and representatives from public policy programmes in construction) will be in Paris on 18th and 19th November 1999. Complete papers should be provided by the end of October for advance circulation to participants. The objectives of the meeting will be to review complete papers, to prepare a first synthesis, to set up the overall content of the book and to formulate precise steps for editing and publication. Contact will be taken with a possible commercial publisher. André Manseau said that he would also look into the feasibility of a video conference set-up for participants who would be unable to come to Paris.

The next general TG35 meeting will be held in Reading, United Kingdom, on 14th or 15th September 2000 (in conjunction with the next W055/W065 annual meeting).

