



CIB NEWS ARTICLE

International Council for Research and Innovation
in Building and Construction

Providing a global network for international exchange and cooperation in research and innovation in building and construction, in support of an improved building process and of improved performance of the built environment.

August 2006

CIB Endorsed Student Chapters

Winner 2006 CIB Guyla Sebestyén Award



**Young
Researchers
Network**

Regional networks, globally connected

Report provided by Ruben Vrijhoef (Delft, The Netherlands) on behalf of all chapters involved: Delft, Eindhoven, Glasgow, Salford, Brighton, Lisbon, Milan, Ankara.

Introduction

This year's CIB Guyla Sebestyén Award was won by the proposal submitted jointly by a group of CIB chapters to establish the CIB Young Researchers Network. The proposal was unanimously found to be ambitious but also practically feasible and robust and if successfully implemented it is expected to have a substantial and sustainable impact upon CIB. The proposal explicitly addresses the criteria as formulated in the call: promote CIB and its objectives, stimulate and facilitate exchange and information between existing CIB Endorsed Student Chapters, attract new Chapters, and stimulate and facilitate cooperation between Chapters. Besides, the proposal is deemed to fit well in the CIB board's ambition to seek after a rejuvenation of the CIB network. The proposal aims to support this ambition by increased collaboration and exchange between chapters, and provide an environment for young researchers to thrive.

Background and Aims of the Proposal

The proposal started as an initiative by a group of European chapters. By no means, however, this proposal aims to establish a European "elite group". Instead, for pragmatic reasons, the intention rather is to initiate a European "start group", which may fuel further global collaboration between chapters

worldwide, and possibly link with corresponding initiatives underway or to be started in other regions, including Asia, Australia and the Americas. The approach taken in this proposal is meant to be pragmatic towards the coordination of the initiative to start the network proposed, and organic with regards to the development of the network. Besides, the approach is inclusive and complementary: starting regionally in Europe, but gradually linking to similar initiatives in other regions worldwide, and including existing and new chapters and initiatives at institutions inside and outside CIB. The approach is justified by reasons that long distance collaboration is often better served by communicating and exchanging knowledge and experience by virtual means, such as through the internet, for reasons of travel costs and time, and other impracticalities. This proposal has two main aims. First, it is to strengthen the interaction and knowledge exchange between chapters and young/PhD researchers in the built environment worldwide by means of "virtual collaboration". Second, it is to find regional opportunities of initiating joint activities by chapters and young/PhD researchers in the built environment within Europe in particular by means of "physical collaboration". Ultimately, the aim is to stimulate the establishment of regional physical collaboration and networks in various regions around the globe, which are connected and collaborating on a global scale. The development of this network will strengthen the idea of the CIB chapters, stimulate the

self-coordination and own activities organised jointly by the chapters, and help promote CIB itself by spreading its name and laying foundations for relationships between the respective institutions involved that will probably continue to persist in the future within the various task groups and working commissions of CIB, and the global building and construction research community in general.

Programme and Output: Two Tracks

The proposal suggests two tracks running in parallels: a virtual track and a physical track. The virtual track is aimed at global collaboration by creating a global e-community of young/PhD researchers in the built environment and CIB chapter members, to encourage shared working, co-writing papers and virtual collaboration in general. The global e-community shall be established through the use of a moderated Yahoo group format. Once the global e-community is established (and growing), its members will need to be stimulated to share their work, questions, CVs, publications etc., and start collaborative working and writing. The virtual collaboration aims to cooperate with, and add extra functionalities to existing platforms and initiatives, notably SPIRIT of the PolyU chapter in Hong Kong. The physical track is aimed at regional collaboration by doing "real things", i.e. academic and social networking and exchange activities for research purposes on a regional level, including research workshops, aligning existing and new postgraduate conferences, and assessing the possibilities of an exchange programme for young/PhD researchers who wish to work at a different university or institute within the network for period of time. This proposal is particularly aimed to start in Europe, possibly inspiring and teaming up with similar initiatives underway or to be started in other regions around the globe. These regional initiatives could later be interconnected through the "virtual collaboration" track.

Members and Organisation

Young/PhD researchers in the built environment at universities and institutes are invited to take part in these plans, notably the members of CIB endorsed chapters within Europe (physical track), and worldwide (virtual track). Currently these chapters are involved: Delft, Glasgow Caledonian, Salford, Lisbon, Ankara, Eindhoven, Milan, Brighton and Gävle. Further chapters to be invited in the physical track include remaining chapters and new chapters establishing in Europe, young/PhD researchers at other European universities and institutes inside the CIB network without a chapter, and young/PhD researchers at other leading European universities and institutes active in the built environment but outside the CIB network. Further chapters worldwide to be invited in the virtual track include all current chapters and new chapters establishing worldwide, and young/PhD researchers in

the built environment worldwide who are interested to join.

What's Next?

The chapters involved have started implementing the planned actions from the proposal. One of the first actions includes the start of the Yahoo group including an e-mail list, which is currently operational. All chapters and young researchers within CIB are invited to become a member of this e-community. Further actions in the virtual track include connecting to existing initiatives such as Hong Kong's Spirit, and stimulating collaboration such as co-writing papers. Actions in the physical track include aligning existing postgraduate conferences to increase the possibilities for young researchers to meet, and organizing postgraduate workshops possibly in conjunction with conferences.

Besides there are more actions to be started soon, and possibly have a first meeting at the CIB2007 conference to be held next May in Cape Town to share first results and discuss further plans.



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Contact Information



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