



## 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.

January 2009

### Around the Task Groups and Working Commissions

#### TG53 - Postgraduate Research Training in Building and Construction

### Progress Report

by

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To ensure the advancement in built environment research, steps need to be taken to increase the number of researchers and improve their career prospects. Their ability to carry out world-class research depends critically on the availability of skilled researchers and their capacity to produce, transfer and utilise knowledge. In this context, Task Group TG53 has provided a necessary framework for such activities in addressing this need to promote the development and transfer of research competencies, consolidate and broaden researchers' career prospects, and promote excellence.

Projects undertaken by the TG53 have mainly focused on supporting the Skills Training Requirements of the wider built environment postgraduate researcher community aiming to address:

- the ability to recognise and validate problems
- original, independent and critical thinking, and the ability to develop theoretical concepts
- a knowledge of recent advances within building and construction
- an understanding of relevant research methodologies and techniques and their appropriate application within building and construction
- the ability to critically analyse and evaluate findings and those of others
- an ability to summarise, document, report and reflect on progress.

Progress reports submitted so far illustrated the excellent contribution that the Task Group has made in achieving its aims and objectives. Bearing in mind the increased importance of the provision of appropriate research training in the built environment field, the Task Group carried out the following activities since the production of its last progress report:

#### *Workshops*

Several international research training workshops were planned and delivered as follows:

- "Research training skills workshop", in association with CIB W089: International Conference in Building Education and Research (BEAR 2008), Kandalama, Sri Lanka 10th - 15th February 2008. Facilitators were Kaushal Keraminiyage and Stephen Ruddock from University of Salford UK and Suranga Jayasena from University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
- Staff development workshop - "Presenting at conferences" facilitated by Dr. Richard Haigh, held at Department of Building Economics, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka, September 2008.
- Staff development workshop on "Creating a research profile" facilitated by Prof. Dilanthi Amaratunga, held at Department of Building Economics, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka, September 2008.

#### *CIB TG53 Publication*

Selected papers presented by the students at the CIB W089: International Conference in Building Education and Research (BEAR 2008), Kandalama, Sri Lanka 10th - 15th February 2008, were incorporated within the CIB Student chapter sessions and their papers have just been put together as a CIB publication and will be published in February 2009. This will be a joint initiative between CIB TG53 and CIB TG63.

#### *Other initiatives - Collaborations with Asian Institutions*

- A competition was held among Sri Lankan undergraduate students, in providing them the opportunity to present their research ideas at

BEAR 2008, sponsored by EURASIA project (European and Asian Infrastructure Advantage), International research collaboration between Asia and Europe. The partnership includes: University of Salford, UK; University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka; University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka; Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia; and, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Lithuania. As part of this competition students received sponsorships to take part and to present their work at the BEAR2008 conference. 17 places in total have been offered for students to present their research in BEAR 2008 conference themes

- First ever CIB Student Chapter meeting in South Asia was held in conjunction with CIB TG53 during CIB W089 : International Conference in Building Education and Research (BEAR 2008), Kandalama, Sri Lanka 10th - 15th February 2008
- Sponsored places for undergraduate students

### Future of CIB TG53

Bearing in mind the increased importance of the provision of appropriate research training in the built environment field, the Task Group has been awarded a mandate extension by the CIB Programme Committee of further 18 months commencing January 2009. This will allow the Task Group to be actively engaged in CIB World Congress 2010 as the postgraduate research coordinator of the CIB.

Further, there are other planned activities, details of which are given below:

#### *Meetings and Workshops*

CIB TG53 Task Group Meetings plus at least two international research training workshops are planned as follows:

- April 2009 – in collaboration with CIB W089 and associated Schools of Construction USA in April 2008
- April 2010 – in collaboration with 2010 CIB World Congress

#### *Major publication on research training good practice guidelines*

A CIB publication outlining frameworks for research training including essential skills and reports of case studies illustrating the best practice will be produced. Call for abstracts for this publication will be published in spring 2009 with an aim to publish the booklet alongside the CIB 2010 World Congress.

### Additional Information

The full progress report can be downloaded [here](#). For further information please contact:

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