



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.

October 2006

CIB Endorsed Student Chapters

New Endorsed Student Chapter



University of Twente

The Netherlands

Department of Construction Management & Engineering

At its Meeting in September 2006 in Atlanta, USA, the CIB Programme Committee has accepted the proposal for the establishment of a CIB Endorsed Student Chapter at the Department of Construction Management & Engineering, University of Twente, The Netherlands. Hereafter follows a summary of the proposal.

Introduction

In recent decades, the construction sector has faced many changes. One of these changes is the shift in the role of the government from one-sided practices in which the government was solely responsible for strategic and long-term spatial planning to a multi-actor and multi-level arena. Consequently, the focus changed from policy-making towards improving governance and creating transparency in the policy process. One outcome was a rearrangement of the balance between public and private responsibilities. This has led to new procurement routes and contracts as Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and Public Private Partnerships (PPP), as well as to a more performance-oriented government. At the same time, construction firms changed their strategic focus from cost efficiency to adding value for money for the client. Related to this development is the more important role of the client. Traditional approaches to the building process often led to a mismatch between demand and supply. Planners, designers and construction firms designed

and developed without taking into account the users' expectations and demands.

These developments have far-reaching consequences for the way construction processes are structured and managed, as well as for the roles and responsibilities of the different actors involved. The Department of Construction Management & Engineering (CME) seeks to generate knowledge and insights in the construction and engineering processes to educate new generations of construction engineers and managers who will be able to manage construction processes in a more effective and efficient way.

CME is part of the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Twente, a research-oriented university that consists of leading gamma and beta academic institutions. Being positioned at the University of Twente, the Department is able to bridge the gap between the traditional beta orientation of construction and civil engineering and the insights from the gamma body of knowledge.

Strategy and Policy

Research by staff and postgraduate students of the Construction Management and Engineering group addresses the whole range of activities in the construction cycle. General areas of research range from project appraisal to realisation, from design to

customer service and from marketing and ethics to design and support processes.

Primarily, the group's research encompasses three main perspectives:

- a. **Planning and development:** In this perspective the research emphasis is on the integration of planning and design and the way interests of stakeholders in the planning and design phase of the construction process are managed.
- b. **Market and Organisation:** This perspective concentrates on studying the various types of procurement systems and their impact on project performance, the structure of the construction industry, and on the incentives for technology development and innovation.
- c. **Design and Engineering:** Within this perspective the focus is on the design and engineering phase of the construction process. The research area is concerned with investigating the opportunities and limitations to innovate design and construction processes as well as construction materials.

Mission

Mission Statement

The Department of Construction Management & Engineering focuses on the need to acquire better insights into the mechanisms governing innovation in the building process and its environment. The research and education program of the Department concentrates on:

- The management and governance mechanisms of construction processes;
- The interfaces between planning and design, and design and realisation;
- The integration of various insights from different disciplines: technology, public and business management, and design management;
- The integration of management and engineering in construction.

The mission of the Department of Construction Management and Engineering encompasses all aspects of the construction process to do with the definition, appraisal, design, delivery of the projects and life-time behaviour of objects. It deals with the interests of all stakeholders involved, as well as the construction business in its broadest sense. For this reason the thrust of the research is an interdisciplinary programme focusing on integration of technology and management for the purpose of producing innovative solutions. The design oriented approach, the close co-operation with practice and the emphasis on integration of disciplines are major distinctive features of this research programme.

Planned Objectives

The objectives of the CME CIB Student Chapter are dedicated to improve the performance of the construction industry by:

- Developing effective and innovative solutions to the problems of managing and engineering of construction processes;
- Conducting both fundamental and applied research of high quality;
- Providing a stimulating and supportive environment for research students;
- Disseminating the research work through publications in scientific and professional journals and at international conferences;
- Regular involvement with the construction industry at all levels.

Planned Activities

The activities of CME CIB Student Chapter are aimed for the improvement of information sharing with other CIB Student Chapters and CIB Working Groups by:

- Organize internal meetings with members of CIB Working Groups.
- Organize workshops and seminars with both academics and practitioners.
- Participate in CIB Conferences and CIB Working Group meetings.
- Produce a yearly newsletter/report to disseminate research findings.

Organisation



Anneloes Blanken

MSc. A. Blanken	President
MSc. A.T. Laan	Vice-President
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Prof. dr. A.G. Dorée	Faculty Advisor
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Collaboration

Many of the research projects carried out by the group are the products of close collaborations with other national and international academic institutes. The Department stimulates exchange programmes with other universities. Research projects are undertaken, besides Dutch universities, with researchers from Imperial College, University of Leuven, Manchester Business School, Concord University, Stanford University, Bau-Institute (Weimar) in Germany and the University of Nottingham. In addition the Department has recruited researchers from ETH Zurich, Weimar, Wuhan University. In 2005 several academics from leading universities have visited our Department. Also a number of staff members have recently held Visiting Scholarships and Professorship at various universities

The Department further has developed a co-operation with the TNO and GeoDelft, two Dutch leading scientific institutes for applied research.