



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.

April 2006

CIB Endorsed Student Chapters

CIB Student Chapter Meeting, 7 April 2006, Delft, The Netherlands

Report provided by Ruben Vrijhoef (Delft, Netherlands), Ana Pereira-Roders (Eindhoven, Netherlands) and Ricardo Codinhoto (Salford, UK)

Introduction

On 7th April 2006 there was a CIB Student Chapter Meeting in Delft, The Netherlands as part of DELFT06 - the International Built and Human Environment Research Week, organised by the University of Salford. The meeting was attended by 12 participants who represent CIB Student Chapters in Turkey, United Kingdom, Portugal and The Netherlands.



The group present in the meeting

Overview Student Chapter Activities

The activities by CIB Student Chapter Commissions were described.

- The Salford CIB Student Chapter: Even if established in 2001, the organising Committee was set up only in 2004. They are currently around 200 members. There are several activities scheduled for 2006, e.g. the bi-annual

e-newsletter, social activities, PGR booklet, sports, a CIB abstract's deadline reminder, key area seminars, etc.

- The Middle East CIB Student Chapter: Winners of the 2005 edition of the Gyula Sebestyén Award. Their proposal for "Widening the Communication Network of CIB Student Chapters" was built on tools such as the CIB Spirit (previous Award winner). Explanation was given about their aims, e.g. the e-journal, student chapters e-forum, e-bulletin, as well as their last and successful activity, the CIB PGRC 2006 - International Conference (16-18 March 2006 in Ankara, Turkey) totally organised by the Middle East CIB Student Chapter.
- The Glasgow CIB Student Chapter: They also organise frequent sports and events to stimulate their members. However, they have been facing some problems of time management and they are planning to organise some more activities to attract new members. The current members are very busy in their PhD research developments.
- The Lisbon CIB Student Chapter: They have organised in 2004 a Seminar on Building Maintenance and the attendance was unexpectedly high. Even if there is the need for such network to widen contacts and knowledge exchange - and their members are very motivated - they face time problems, which decrease their productivity as CIB Student Chapter. All members are "part parttime" workers and have to manage their time, through working, teaching and researching. They are willing to organise more of those key area seminars, but still, it won't be for now.
- The Delft CIB Student Chapter: Even if everything is already being organised by the faculty, the University or through the national network of PhD researchers in the built environment 'Onderzoeksschool Bouw', e.g. key area seminars, research presentations, monthly meetings, training programmes, social activities,

sports, etc.; they decided to create a Delft CIB Student Chapter to host the 3rd International Built and Human Environment Research Week and the CIB Student Chapter meeting. They also face the problem of time management. Many PhD researchers are part-timers and also doing research and consultancy, and are active outside the University. This opens opportunities too, e.g. within the national innovation programme 'PSIBouw', and participation in the national network of young employees from firms and institutes in the Dutch construction industry 'De NieuwBouw'.

- The Eindhoven CIB Student Chapter: Contemporary to Delft, these are the two fresh starters. Also born to support the Adaptables 2006 conference, in TU/e, this chapter is part of a wider plan to improve the conditions of 'bouwkunde' PhD researchers. Since 2005 a group of motivated PhD researchers have gathered to work on some of the numerous problems found. A PhD network was shaped and bi-directed: the prombouw for inner problem-solving and the CIB Student Chapter for inner and outer knowledge exchange and communication. Among other activities, the PhD network has been busy with social meetings, identification of all PhDs, workshops and education programmes, poster exhibitions, etc.

A New Proposal

A proposal for a Young Researchers Network was presented and all attendees agreed that even if the proposal needed to be more specific and clear, it had a very good basis for further developments. Everyone agreed to revise the proposal at home and meet again via internet, to discuss online each others results.



Ruben Vrijhoef presenting the proposal for a Young Researchers Network

There have been several CIB Student Chapters stating that the Young Researchers Network could be difficult to implement, but one of the participants explained that slowly we could grow from small to big, step by step. Everyone agreed to discuss it further in the next online meeting along with the proposal developments.