



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

INFORMATION

Nr. 2/02

Around the Task Groups and Working Commissions

W078 – Information Technology for Construction



Annual Progress Report from the Commission Meeting on June 12-14, in Aarhus, Denmark

The annual CIB W078 Conference on Information Technology for Construction in 2002 took place on June 12-14 in Aarhus, Denmark and was hosted by DTU – The Technical University of Denmark.

In conjunction with this conference a W078 Commission Meeting was organised, that was attended by ± 50 persons.

Hereafter follows a progress report on all ongoing W078 activities as defined based upon the meeting outcome.

The following W078 commission projects were agreed upon in South Africa and a summary status report is outlined with potential future actions.

Electronic publishing (contacts: Bo Christer Bjork, Ziga Turk and Dana Vanier)

The ITCON journal remains the preferred outlet for endorsement by the commission for journal publication of member's work. In addition, it was agreed to extend the scope of the ITCON site to embrace proceedings of the last ten years of W078 conferences and of all future events as a matter of policy. Other additional work being proposed is for individual members to be able to add bibliographies of their relevant publications. This work can be found at <http://itcon.org>. A recently funded EU project will now allow resource support to take this forward.



International Surveys (contact: Rob Howard)

A web site has already been established of a list of interested parties, a questionnaire used for earlier surveys, and a bibliography of relevant publications. The survey is being repeated through a number of commission members in mainly Nordic countries. The plan would be to make a greater effort to encourage more W078 members to repeat surveys in a consistent way in different countries, to post their results in the form of papers to the project web site and for overviews of the respective studies to be reported upon at different times at conferences and through other publications. Further details of this work can now be found at <http://www.byg.dtu/faggrupper/byggeled/rh/itbarenggjest.pdf>

Education (contact: Daniel Rebolj)

A number of commission members are collaborating on an ERASMUS project to support a shared educational programme. There are also plans to hold a Construction IT Education conference in Slovenia from 12-13 September 2002. It was agreed that this would be supported by W078 as a regular activity with the possibility of a regular theme or slot within future W078 conferences allocated to issues concerning Education in IT in Construction.

Reviewing W078 work to date (contact: Robert Amor)

An analysis has been conducted of the subjects and themes of all conference papers presented at W078 conferences from 1992-2002. This has been documented as a paper presented to the CIB Triennial World Congress. The updated picture including the Denmark conference will be presented at the 2002 conference as part of one of the keynote presentations. A paper documenting the full results is being prepared for submission to the ITCON journal.

Liaison with other CIB working commissions (contact: Dana Vanier)

The intention is to explore possible future joint meetings or activities with W102 on Information Management and with W065, W092 and other working commissions as part of the 2004 triennial.

A future research agenda (contact: Thomas Froese)

The work in this area has focused on the preparation of long-term scenarios of future IT support to construction projects. A survey to enable a scenario for 2020 has recently been completed and documented. This can be found at <http://www.civil.ubc.ca/~tfroese/pubs>

A Vision for Construction IT (contact: Martin Betts)

A shorter-term (5 Year) vision has been documented and presented to the CIB triennial congress 2001. A presentation of this vision has been prepared and consideration is being made of its use as a means of positioning individual contributions to forthcoming conferences, as a basis for continuing challenge and

discussion at the conferences, and with all presenters and members being invited to offer single slide examples that further populate the vision presentation. The vision presentation is downloadable from the main W078 web site at <http://w78.civil.auc.dk/>

Network on Virtual Reality in Construction Processes and Products (NetVR) (contact: Nashwan Dawood)

A funded international network has recently commenced in May 2002 on VR applied to the construction process. The network aims to share experiences, shape a future research agenda and provide networking opportunities.

Network on Information Standards and Exchange (contact: Ghassan Aouad)

An existing international network on information standardisation and exchange (SIENE) was to be encouraged as a funded network that matched a major current theme within the working commission.

Future Conferences

The W078 conference for 2003 will be hosted by Robert Amor of the University of Auckland in New Zealand.

The 2004 conference would coincide with the CIB Triennial in Canada and could consist of two linked activities. One to join with commissions W065 and W092 as part of a core symposium within the Triennial on Revaluing Construction. This would be a large symposium in which W078 members may be part of the organising and scientific committees. A separate W078-only workshop, coinciding with the Triennial, could be hosted in Toronto by a collection of Canadian members.

Expressions of interest for meetings in 2005 and beyond have been received from Beirut, Chile, Germany, Stanford and the UK. It is proposed that the commission look to regularly meet in association with future CIB Triennial meetings when they are of interest and value to our work and when local focused activity is also possible.

A further point of principle is that W078 might look to avoid holding its meetings in Europe in the same year that the ECPPM is meeting in its biannual cycle.