

# **CIB W78 - IT for Construction**

## **Work Programme Progress Report - 2003**

The following projects were reported upon in Auckland, New Zealand.

1. Electronic publishing – Bo Christer Bjork and Ziga Turk. The ITCON journal remains the preferred outlet for endorsement by the commission for journal publication of member's work. In addition, it was reported that proceedings of the last ten years of W78 conferences had now been documented at <http://www.scix.net> This searchable database of all W78 publications in that period was widely welcomed and all W78 members were encouraged to add their own personal publications to this database. In their absence, Bo Christer Bjork and Ziga Turk were thanked and congratulated for the success and quality of their work and input.
2. International Surveys – 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 W78 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 the main CIB W78 web site which is locatable through the CIB website at <http://www.cibworld.nl>
3. Education – Danijel Rebolj. A number of commission members are collaborating on an ERASMUS project to support a shared educational programme. A Construction IT Education conference was held in Slovenia from 12-13 September 2002. This had been supported by W78.
4. Reviewing W78 work to date – Robert Amor. An analysis has been conducted of the subjects and themes of all conference papers presented at W78 conferences from 1992-2002. A keynote paper at the Auckland conference by Rob Howard has extended this. A paper documenting the earlier results for the period 1992-2002 has been published by the ITCON journal.
5. Network on Virtual Reality in Construction Processes and Products (NetVR) – Nashwan Dawood. A funded international network that commenced in May 2002 on VR applied to the construction process has held one open meeting with W78 support with a further meeting now planned. The network aims to share experiences, shape a future research agenda and provide networking opportunities. Details can be found at <http://sst.tees.ac.uk/vr-net>

6. Network on Information Standards and Exchange – Ghassan Aouad. An existing international network on information standardisation and exchange (SIENE) has been encouraged in its work this year. A conference on the work of this network was held in conjunction with the eSmart conference in Salford in 2002.
7. Future Conferences – The 2004 conference would coincide with the CIB Triennial in Canada and could consist of two linked activities. One to join with commissions W65 and W92 as part of a core symposium within the Triennial on *Revaluing Construction*. This would be a large symposium in which W78 members would be part of the organising and scientific committees. A separate W78-only workshop, coinciding with the Triennial, will be hosted in Toronto by a collection of Canadian members. It was agreed that the 2005 conference and meeting would take place in Dresden led by Professor Raimar Scherer. Expressions of interest for meetings in 2006 and beyond have been received from Beirut, Chile, 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 W78 might look to avoid holding its meetings in Europe in the same year that the ECPPM is meeting in its biannual cycle.
8. Role of the Co-ordinator – The commission discussed the issue of the role of coordinator. To reflect the standardisation of CIB practice, to spread the workload and to prepare for succession, nominations were sought for the role of co-coordinator. Dr Robert Amor of University of Auckland was nominated, seconded and unanimously supported by the commission and his nomination is being forwarded to the CIB Programme Board.