



CIB W78 - IT for Construction

Progress Report - 2005

Review of the 22nd W78 Conference

The CIB-W78 meeting was held on 20 July 2005 with 29 attendees during the 22nd W78 conference, 19-21 July 2005, Dresden, Germany. The 22nd conference is our largest conference yet and we offer our thanks to Prof Raimar Scherer and his co-workers for the amazing effort they put into making this conference such a success. For many of us the 4th International Workshop on Information Technology in Construction Education drew us to Dresden a day earlier (this series is an item in the W78 work programme). On the 18 July 2005, Dr Karsten Menzel organised a full day of presentations and discussion. There were three keynote presentations to stimulate discussion as well as seven full papers. The day concluded with a tour through the State Library of Saxony which included access to their vault of ancient and precious manuscripts. The W78 conference had 93 presentations including three keynotes proceeding in two or three track sessions. There were also workshops on 'Capturing the Logic of Processes in Civil Engineering' and 'Managing the Multiple Model Space' which attracted good attendance and very frank discussions. The final day ended with a panel discussion on 'Emerging Technologies & The Future Job Profile of Construction IT' which drew a wide variety of viewpoints from the panelists and the audience. The over 100 attendees at this conference had great praise for the organisation and quality of papers at the conference, and many expressed their surprise at how beautiful Dresden is as a city, a great locale for such a conference.

Future Conferences

2006

Selection of the site for the 2006 conference proved contentious, with three offers to host the conference, and attendees split evenly between Montreal and Santiago. With no shift in voting patterns a compromise was finally accepted where W78 would have a presence in Montreal and the main workshop in Santiago. Unfortunately, when it came to papers for the Santiago workshop there were not enough abstracts put forward to make the conference viable and it has had to be deferred to 2008. Therefore in 2006 the 23rd W78 meeting is solely at the following:

14-16 June, Montreal, Canada at the Joint International Conference on Computing and Decision Making in Civil and Building Engineering (<http://www.icccbexi.ca/>).

This is a mega conference involving ICCCB, ICC-ASCE, DMUCE, CIB-W78, and CIB-W102 and considering over 400 abstracts for presentation at the conference.

2007

Danijel Rebolj offered to host the next European located W78 in eastern Europe. After some consideration the conference has been mooted as follows:

27-29 June 2007, Hotel Habakuk Convention Center, Maribor, Slovenia.

The theme will be: Bringing ITC knowledge to work

2008

The deferred Chile conference of 2006 has been assigned to 2008.

2009

There has been an offer to host the conference in Istanbul, Turkey.

2011

There has been an offer to host the conference in Madiera, Spain.

W78 Meeting Agenda Items

Aside from the discussions around conference locations the following topics were canvassed.

1. There was a discussion around nominating a joint coordinator for W78. Despite there being two committee members willing to stand in this position the feeling of the meeting was that this was unnecessary for W78 until the time that succession of the coordinator role was being considered.
2. The items in our current work program were canvassed and suggestions for further items considered. While no new items were agreed upon, W78 will reconsider the following in the coming years (and look for someone to lead as a work programme item).
 - Encouraging young researchers, e.g., through reduced conference fees, a track for PhD students, and awards for young researchers.
 - Women in CIT, recognizing the small percentage of our attendees who are women.
 - International IT surveys (previously coordinated by Rob Howard who is retiring). This has been a very useful activity for benchmarking across countries. We should encourage someone to take on responsibility for this item in coming years.
3. The question was raised as to whether we should look to publicise W78 further to other universities? We should use our website to further highlight benefits of W78, and provide links so it is ranked highly in search engines (e.g., Google).

Work Programme Projects

The following projects are current within W78.

1. W78 web site – Per Christiansen. The maintenance of current information regarding W78 including details of attendees at recent workshops, members of the commission, funded projects, etc.
2. 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. W78 members are encouraged to add their own personal publications to this database.
3. International Surveys – *open position*. 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.
4. Education – Danijel Rebolj. A number of commission members have collaborated on an ERASMUS project to support a shared educational programme. The 4th Construction IT Education conference (CIT@EDU) was held in conjunction with W78 in Dresden this year.
5. Reviewing W78 work to date – Robert Amor. No further update of this review has been undertaken this year. It is felt that such reviews are only necessary at periodic intervals (e.g., 5 yearly).
6. 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. 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> and also links to the yearly CONVR conferences.
7. 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.