



CIB W78 - IT in Construction

**Annual Meeting, 29th June 2000
Reykjavik, Iceland**

Notes of Meeting

1. Future Conferences

2001

Opportunities for the working commission to meet and hold a conference in 2001 were presented and discussed. The alternatives were: to meet as part of the CIB Triennial congress in New Zealand, to meet in South Africa in May/June 2001. After considerable discussion it was agreed that the conference and meeting for 2001 would be held in South Africa hosted by Gustav Coetzee of CSIR. Concern was expressed regarding the high cost of registration and accommodation for the event and the arrangements that were to be made for the remote traveling. The need for the conference to have time specifically made available in its programme to facilitate the implementation of the commission work programme was also noted.

The commission was keen to make some input to the CIB Triennial but was concerned for the need for W78 to have a local host on the ground who was an established member of the working commission, and the need for W78 to have its own identity within its meeting, was noted.

As an alternative to having a meeting in Wellington, the commission agreed that Martin Betts and Robert Amor would seek the opportunity to present a summary of the commission's recent work and future vision to a plenary session of the Triennial.

2002

Arrangements for the meetings in 2002 and beyond were discussed. Possibilities of meeting in Atlanta and Trinidad were presented. The Trinidad opportunity would be to join with other working commissions and task groups including W92 for a joint conference in January 2002. The time

of year was not felt to be most suitable and the lack of an established W78 member on the ground was again seen to be a drawback. Other strong proposals were made at the meeting for future conferences to be held in Denmark (Rob Howard and Per Christiansen) or Brisbane (Robin Drogemuller). The commission agreed that either of these locations would be appropriate for future meetings and both groups of proposers were asked to submit proposals in the form of venue, date, theme, indicative price, before the end of August 2001 to allow a decision to be made before the end of September.

Because both locations were felt to be suitable, it is highly likely that whichever location was not confirmed for 2002 would be a strong contender for hosting the 2003 meeting.

2. The Work Programme

A considerable discussion took place regarding the way that the working commission can build from the success and enthusiasm of its participants to engage in an annual conference, to participate in ongoing collaborative efforts of mutual benefit. The difficulties with making progress with all elements of the earlier published work programme were noted and seen to primarily relate to the unfunded nature of the commission, its reliance on the efforts of a small number of individuals, and the lack of continuity in its activities and processes. Despite this the meeting was reasonably satisfied that this was not a major cause of concern for the members of W78 who felt that these other desirable outcomes were being adequately provided by other network mechanisms of which they were part.

The success of the commission's work in electronic publishing, with the ITCON journal in particular, was again noted. The fact that this initiative had strong personal champions and overlap in aspiration between the individuals concerned and the commission as a whole was again noted as a potential model for a way forward whereby those undertaking certain activities and keen to bring their separately funded work to a W78 forum should be encouraged to do so.

The need for elements of the work programme to be more explicitly identified and facilitated in the annual conferences and workshops was noted.

As a result of this discussion, a number of areas of activity that individual members of the commission would look to lead and contribute to on a regular basis, were identified as follows:

- Electronic publishing – Bo Christer Bjork and Ziga Turk. This would entail further development of the ITCON journal and the exploration of a possible W78 preprints activity.

- International Surveys – Rob Howard. The focal point for information exchange on surveys of IT use in different countries.
- Education – Daniel Rebolj. The opportunity for W78 members to share in the development of international education programmes would be explored.
- Reviewing W78 work to date – Robert Amor. An opportunity to make a review of what fields W78 has covered in its recent past, what state of art we have realised and any trends in developments would be explored.
- Information on Funded Projects – Robin Drogemuller. Collection of information regarding major funded international projects would be collated as part of a CSIRO activity and would be made available as a W78 activity.
- Liaison with other CIB working commissions – Dana Vanier. The links with other working commissions and with the CIB program board and its representatives.
- Organisation of next workshop – Gustav Coetzee. The effective organization and hosting of the next workshop in 2001 and its effective facilitation of other aspects of the work programme.
- Maintenance of web site – Per Christiansen. The maintenance of current information regarding the W78 web site including details of attendees at recent workshops, members of the commission, funded projects and the like through interaction with others responsible for elements of this work programme and with the CIB secretariat. Making PDF files of all recent workshop proceedings would also be explored.
- A road map and taxonomy of our future research agenda – Thomas Froese. The opportunity to start to map out a future picture of the issues that our research might address.
- A state of the art report – Gudni Gudnason. The opportunity to review the papers from the most recent workshop and edit a further publication of selected worked up papers that presented a state of the art in the field.
- A Vision for Construction IT – Martin Betts. The derivation of a picture of how our research might be facilitating the emergence of future processes for construction projects.