



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.

January 2009

Around the Task Groups and Working Commissions

W112 - Culture in Construction

Report of the Conference held in November 2008 in Shanghai, China PR

The International Conference on Multi-National Construction Projects was organised by CIB W112 'Culture in Construction' and the conference host the Tongji University, Shanghai, PR China. The Theme of the conference was "Securing High Performance through Cultural Awareness and Dispute Avoidance".

Support

The conference was supported by CIB Working Commission W113 on Law and Dispute Resolution and Task Groups TG59 on People in Construction, TG64 on Leadership in Construction, TG67 on Statutory Adjudication in Construction and TG68 on Construction Mediation, as well as the 'China Network' of leading universities.

Welcome

The conference commenced with a casual cocktail reception at Tongji University on the evening of 20 November, at which delegates renewed existing friendships as well as making new ones. Professor Jiang Fuming, Vice President of Tongji University gave a very warm welcoming address and introduced delegates to the long and impressive history of the University. That was followed by Professor Wu Jianwei, Vice Dean of the School of Economics and Management, who introduced delegates to the work of the School. The third address was by Professor Wang Wei, Vice President of CIB, who described the research efforts of CIB.

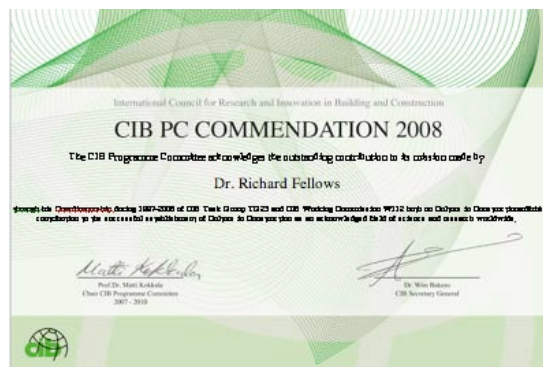


Professor Wang Wei, Vice President of CIB

He then made a presentation to Professor Richard Fellows, the retiring joint coordinator of W112, for his excellent contribution to CIB and work on culture in construction. A token of appreciation was handed over by Professor Wang Wei to Professor Richard Fellows. And then finally Richard himself as chairperson of the conference, gave a brief opening address.



Professor Richard Fellows



Certificate for his Coordinatorship during 1997-2008

Discussion and Debate

The core of the conference consisted of lively and informative discussions and debate, for which the organizers had purposely avoided any parallel sessions and allowed generous time in the conference programme. Those arrangements were very popular with the delegates, several of whom commented that even more time would have been helpful! An excellent indicator of the importance of the conference-theme within academia and industry!



Dr Wilco Tjihuis, W112 joint coordinator gives a souvenir to one of the keynote speakers, Professor Colin Wall

Visit

The first day of the conference was concluded with a visit to the famous Xin Tian Di development in Shanghai, hosted by the developer and a sponsor of the conference, Shui On Land Limited. Delegates were welcomed to a wonderfully restored major house for cocktails and an introduction to the whole development by Mr Louis Wang, the managing director, before being escorted on a guided tour of Xin Tian Di itself – a most enjoyable and informative evening.



Mr Louis Wang, Managing Director, Shui On Development Limited, introduces the development of Xin Tian Di, Shanghai

Commission Meeting

The meeting of W112 was held on the second day of the conference. Richard Fellows stepped down as a joint coordinator and was warmly thanked by the joint coordinator, Wilco Tjihuis and behalf of the group. Professor Anita Liu, of Loughborough University was formally proposed and supported as a new candidate Joint Coordinator. The CIB Board will be asked to officially appoint her in this position.

The group discussed a number of matters, notably its role in CIB in support of other groups which is reflected in the proposals to hold future meetings and conferences in conjunction with W055, W065, W107 in particular as well as maintaining the excellent links which have been forged with W092 and many other Task Groups and Working Commissions.

Further, W112 proposed to explore its possible role as a pivot for research on culture in construction, notably through liaisons with other construction research networks on a global scale.

Banquet

The second day of the conference concluded with a Chinese banquet at which delegates were treated to a highly skilled and entertaining performance of traditional Chinese music played by three very talented students of Tongji University. Needless to say, the company was superb and the cuisine, excellent, all 'topped-off' with traditional Chinese toasting etiquette.

Tasks

The conference concluded on the afternoon of the third day when Richard having the pleasure of thanking the delegates and keynote speakers, the sponsors – Shui On Land Limited and Shanghai Tongji Engineering Consulting Company Limited – the student helpers, the local organizers – particularly Professor Shi Qian and Professor Hu Wenfa – but, most especially, the chairperson of the local organizing committee, Professor Chen Jian Guo, without whose enormous contribution and very hard work the conference could not have taken place.

Additional Information

For additional information about the CIB W112 please contact the Coordinator:
Wilco Tijhuis w.tijhuis@utwente.nl.



You can find more information on the activities of CIB W112 at www.cibworld.nl Search under Databases/CIB Commissions. Click on Commissions and type W112 in the search field.