



International Council
for Research and Innovation
in Building and Construction



May 2020/edition #10



Message from the CIB President Keith Hampson

Dear Colleagues and Members,

This is a special newsletter ahead of our Board meetings, Commission Co-ordinator sessions and General Assembly next week, which for the time in our 67-year history will be held as online sessions using zoom.

I hope all CIB members, families and colleagues have stayed healthy during this period of the Covid-19 global pandemic. We have all been affected in a big way, and whilst some of our members are now starting to ease out of "lockdown", we will all remain severely impacted for many months to come.

The impact of the pandemic will be a major theme underpinning all our discussions next week, from the future of the construction and built environment sector around the world, to current and future ways of working for our members and of CIB ourselves. This is a very difficult time for all of us, and as CIB we have major challenges ahead to reinvent ourselves, or at least to adapt to these new challenges.

We have a strong team in place, Don Ward as the new CEO plus Michael Behm as Programme Director give us a high quality resource to support the work of the Commissions, and I hope we see a large turnout next week to hear your views and engage as many members as possible to collaborate in a major new programme of work. We are very grateful for the support of our hosts, Aalborg University in Copenhagen, for their flexibility in accommodating the new formats required for these online meetings, and with a week to go we have over 70 registrations for the various sessions, so I hope as many of you as possible will join us. I anticipate some very valuable discussions!

From Don Ward, CIB CEO



Firstly, may I repeat the President's best wishes for your continued good health in these difficult times. It has been a strange time to come in as CEO, but oddly it has perhaps been easier to get time with members and colleagues than might normally have been the case. As a result, I have had so many great conversations with people who are committed to a modern value-adding CIB, so every cloud....

The secretariat team is really looking forward to next week's meetings and to working with you all to achieve the most productive session we can in the limited time available. Our opportunity is to set us on a new course to "reinvent" or at least relaunch CIB in the post-Covid era. As the newest addition to the team I pledge my commitment to make CIB an organisation which is modern, responsive and innovative in supporting our Members, Commissions and Student Chapters over the next 2-3 years, and I look forward to meeting many of you for the first time next week.

The practical realities of next week's online format are that we can expect the online sessions to be much better attended than is usual when people have to travel, but on the other hand the interactions will be more limited and the amount of time we can commit is much less, due to our concern for your well-being by managing screen time. Please accept this limitation but use all the channels to communicate with us during and between the sessions, before and afterwards. We are using zoom as the main platform, MS Teams is also supporting some of the sessions, and we know that some organisations restrict use of these. If you find you cannot connect, even by the phone options which are available, the worst case is that you email us and make your views heard that way, or we can arrange a phone call if you prefer.

This message builds on what I hope has already been apparent, that our new team is committed to communication and engagement with you as the first step in resetting what CIB offers to our Members. You will see below two articles on other ways in which we have already taken small steps to improve this communication, with a report on the members survey and the recent meetings with Working Commission Co-Ordinators, and you will be pleased to know that a third is underway – the renewal of our website to provide a modern interface for the work of all the different parts of our organisation. Phase 1 of this should go live around the end of June.

See you next week.

Membership Survey Report

We would like to thank the 146 people who responded to our membership survey in April. Please find [attached](#) a copy of a short report on the findings, this has provided the foundation for a new Membership and Marketing Strategy to be considered by the Board at its meeting in June. We will also feed in the results to the ongoing work of the Programme Committee with the Working Commissions and the Student Chapters Committee, as the survey reinforced the value placed by members on both activities.

With thanks once again, please feel free to direct any further comments to [Don Ward](#), Ron Wakefield as chair of the Membership and Marketing Committee, or indeed any other Board member if you prefer.

CIB Coordinators' consultations May 2020



Thirty-seven coordinators from CIB Task Groups and Commissions attended MS Teams meetings on May 11 and 12. These followed on from an email reach-out to Coordinators asking for feedback, and the purpose of the meetings was generally to enhance communication with and between Coordinators and to seek involvement in the setting of CIB's work programme.

The two sessions ensured all time zones had an opportunity to participate at a civilised time. CIB President Keith Hampson attended both sessions, as did Don Ward, CIB CEO. Both Keith and Don emphasized the importance of hearing and valuing Coordinators' views and committing to the development of CIB Student Chapters.

Coordinators expressed views to have more input to the Board. The June Board meeting hosted by Aalborg University in Denmark features two 1-hour blocks for Coordinators to meet with Board members to provide input to CIB and future programmes. These meetings are being held as online meetings and therefore a good turnout is anticipated and welcomed. The sessions also discussed issues felt to be of particular importance, as follows.

CIB Conference proceedings. The indexing and archiving of CIB conference proceedings has been a long-standing discussion point amongst Coordinators, members, and conference delegates. There remains no one best solution. If conference proceedings are to be indexed in traditional academic search engines (Scopus, Ei Compendex, Web of Science, etc.) there is a cost for open access, or the publication remains behind a subscription service which is not typically paid for by those outside of major academic institutions. CIB has investigated MDPI and Springer as options. We are currently evaluating others and hope to provide a number of options for Commissions, with financial options for the Board also to consider.

Impact of Covid19. The global pandemic has altered the way everyone does business. How will conferences change? How do these changes affect publications stemming from conferences? How will the sector as a whole be impacted, and how will built environment research be affected in the short and long term? It is apparent the pandemic will be a significant discussion point at the June Board meetings. CIB will evaluate and respond to members needs and desires in the post-Covid world. Cross-commission task groups evaluating best practices within our global network will likely emerge.

Other themes. Among other topics discussed were ensuring that a group of Coordinators has input into CIB's current website upgrade, enthusiasm for seeking additional methods to collaborate with researchers from developing countries, revising mechanisms for planning and reporting Commissions' research, and enhancing student involvement through CIB Student Chapters.

Overall, the Coordinator meetings were well-attended, energetic, and collaborative. We anticipate that future Coordinator meetings will invite speakers to share best practices and themed presentations. In addition to communications with their Commission and Task Group Coordinators, members are encouraged to reach out to provide any feedback and programme related ideas to [Michael Behm](mailto:Michael.Behm@cibworld.org), CIB Programme Director.

For further information on this newsletter or any other aspect of CIB's work, please contact Debbie Gray, Membership & Marketing Manager, at debbie.gray@cibworld.org or +1 (613) 727 1481 x100.