School of Built and Natural Environment, University of Central Lancashire:
The School of Built and Natural Environment maintains an appropriate and distinct range of research activity with a major feature being partnerships with industry, commerce and other academic institutions in the UK and overseas. The School has a dynamic and diverse research community, spanning the School’s areas of specialism in environment, design and construction, but centres around three themes: Architecture; Construction Management and Economics; and Environment and Technology. These research activities cover process, technical, technology, performance, economic, legal, environmental and financial issues in relation to construction, facilities, property investments and the natural environment. Within the School there are a number of research areas that have both National and International recognition. This is demonstrated by members being invited as keynote speakers at national and international conferences. The overarching theme of all research in the School is Sustainable Development. This is reflected by the two Research Centres within the School: The Centre for Sustainable Development and The Centre for Waste Management. Members of the School have organised many conferences including the Association of Researchers in Construction Management’s annual conference, the RICS COBRA annual conference and School members have been actively engaged as chairs and scientific committee members of many international conferences and received many funded grants from the EPSRC, DETR, RICS, EU, and industry. The School is a member of the International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction (CIB). For more information please visit: http://www.uclan.ac.uk/scitech/built_natural_environment/index.php

EU COST Action TU1001:
COST  – European Cooperation in Science and Technology  was the first and is the widest European network for the coordination of nationally funded research activities. It is based on an intergovernmental framework for cooperation agreed following a Ministerial Conference in 1971. The mission of COST is to strengthen Europe in scientific and technical research through the support of European cooperation and interaction between European researchers. It covers both basic and more applied or technological research and also addresses issues of a pre-normative nature or of societal importance. As a precursor of advanced multidisciplinary research, COST has a very important role in building the European Research Area (ERA), anticipating and complementing the activities of the Framework Programmes, acting as a “bridge” spanning the scientific communities of the whole Europe, increasing the mobility of researchers across Europe and fostering the establishment of large Framework Programme projects in many key Scientific Domains. The Transport and Urban Development (TUD) Domain fosters research coordination in the fields of transport and the built environment, which play a strategic role in the modern society and economy. The Domain deals with assessment, planning and management of transport systems covering issues like safety and security, energy consumption, environmental impacts, modal diversion and re-equilibrium, transport policies, traffic management, market issues, and sustainable mobility. It focuses on improving transportation structures by developing new design and technologies both for infrastructures (materials, intuitive driving signals, etc.) and vehicles (alternative fuels, Intelligent Transportation System, etc.), enhancing human-machine interfaces and upgrading driving behaviour.

TU1001 - Public Private Partnerships in Transport: Trends and Theory (P3T3), chaired by Dr. Athena Roumboutsos, comes under the TUD Domain. Action TU1001 focuses on developing the theoretical basis for PPPs in the transport sector. Key objectives to be addressed on a national and modal perspective by the three working groups are: (i) A decision making process for selection, implementation and operation of PPP transport projects considering ‘sustainable procurement’ and ‘value propositions’; (ii) Identification of critical success factors, test criteria and knowledge bases for improved PPP performance; (iii) Implications of the financial arrangement. Findings are cross-studied by auxiliary working groups focusing on the national context and the modal (urban, surface, air and sea port) context, respectively. The P3T3 network includes more than 80 researchers from 23 COST countries and 6 non-COST countries. For more information please visit: www.ppptransport.eu

CIB TG72
The CIB Programme Committee established a Task Group: TG72 on Public Private Partnership, with Prof. Akintola Akintoye from the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) and Prof. Mohan Kunnarawarny from the University of Hong Kong as its Joint Coordinators. The Task Group addresses public private partnership on an international level by providing a forum to facilitate exchange and synthesis of research on the issues (social, economic, political, cultural, environmental, etc.) that underpin PPP. It also attempts to identify emerging international practices within PPP in facilities and construction development. The Task Group's objective is to develop a thriving international research community within the field of Public Private Partnership through involving practitioners and experts in the field to collaborate on distinct scholarly tasks. There are many on-going studies in the field of Public Private Partnership for infrastructure, facilities and services delivery in the construction environment that need to be coordinated to develop a body of knowledge across the world. This Task Group will allow various features of PPP (social, economical, political, cultural, etc.) to be captured and documented. For more information please visit: http://www.cibworld.nl/site/home/index.html

Note: This conference is also supported by HKU CICID – Centre for Infrastructure and Construction Industry Development (CICID) of The University of Hong Kong (HKU).
BACKGROUND:

In many developed and developing countries there has been a move toward increased reliance on Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) for infrastructure development. This involves an engagement with, or participation of, private companies and the public sector in the financing and provision of infrastructure. In most countries these PPP arrangements have been aimed at overcoming broad public sector constraints in relation to either a lack of public capital; and/or a lack of public sector capacity, resources and specialised expertise to develop, manage, and operate infrastructure assets.

Public Private Partnerships are now commonly used to accelerate economic growth, development and infrastructure delivery and to achieve quality service delivery and good governance. The spectrum of nature and types of public private partnerships (PPPs) are overwhelming, making a definition of a PPP difficult. In addition, there have been tremendous developments in the use of PPP in many countries that has made it increasingly important to understand these practices.

PPPs are now accepted as an important avenue for funding major public sector infrastructure projects. PPPs are joint ventures in which business and government co-operate, each applying its strengths to develop a project more quickly and more efficiently than government could accomplish on its own. The private sector may be responsible for the designing, financing, constructing, owning and/or operating the entire project. The private sector may want to be assured that the public-private partnership structure is designed to provide competitive rates of return commensurate with a financial rate of return that they could earn on alternative projects of comparable risk.

Given the changing economic, social and political environment, coupled with globalisation and budgetary constraints, PPP has become unavoidable and indeed desirable by countries. Many developing countries, and indeed others with limited financial resources, still look to PPPs as an alternative source for financing much needed infrastructure such as roads and bridges. However, many developed countries have transitioned to a new wave of PPPs that focus heavily on achieving value for money by mobilising private sector efficiencies, innovations and flexibilities in delivering both infrastructure and services to a more discerning public.

We are pleased to announce an international PPP Conference to explore on-going research in PPP across these diverse issues. This event will provide an opportunity for all interested academics and researchers to engage in the conference. The research presentations will facilitate discussions on aspects of research methodological approaches, data collection and analysis, perceived research outcomes and contributions to the ‘PPP Body of Knowledge’ (P3Book), which, while focused on PPP, will also interface with related knowledge domains in procurement and performance. Public Private Partnerships are now commonly used in the many countries across the world to accelerate economic growth, development and infrastructure delivery and to achieve quality service delivery and good governance.

CONFERENCE THEMES:

Given the importance of PPP to many nations and because of many challenges associated with its implementation, research in PPP has continued to grow. Specific PPP related issues covered by research and related publications include: PPP Structures, Systems & Mechanisms, stakeholder management, project and corporate financing; risk and value management; market analysis, modelling and forecasting; relational management, sustainability framework, project management, sustainable procurement strategies, capital structure decisions and management; statutory regulations in the PPP environment; developed and developing countries’ issues; transaction management, design quality, legal and contractual requirements, role of financial and insurance sectors; institutional and multilateral funding etc. The conference main themes can be categorised as follows:

I. Decision Models/Frameworks
II. Policies and Strategies
III. Implementation – Needs and Issues
IV. PPP Markets
V. Financing
VI. Performance
VII. Risk Management
VIII. Sustainability of PPP projects
IX. Governance & Institutions
X. Managing Change & Innovation

KEY DATES:

First Announcement: Jan 2012
Abstract Submission: 15th April 2012
Full Paper Submission: 30th September 2012
Reviewer Comments: 15th November 2012
Camera Ready Paper Submission: 15th December 2012

CONFERENCE CHAIR:

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CONFERENCE CO-ORDINATORS:

Dr. Athena Roumboutsos - University of Aegean, Greece
Dr. Champika Liyanage - UCLAN, UK
Prof. Mohan Kumaraswamy - University of Hong Kong

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