

The 3rd World Construction Symposium 2014

Sustainability and Development in Built Environment: The Way Forward

20 – 22 June 2014

Colombo, Sri Lanka

DETAILED REPORT

The 3rd World Construction Symposium 2014 on “Sustainability and Development in Built Environment: The Way Forward” was held from 20th to 22nd June 2014 at Galadari Hotel, Colombo, Sri Lanka. The symposium was jointly organised by the Ceylon Institute of Builders (CIOB) and Building Economics Management and Research Unit (BEMRU) of Department of Building Economics, University of Moratuwa. The symposium was sponsored by International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction (CIB). Glasgow Caledonian University, Liverpool John Moores University, United Kingdom and Centre for Infrastructure & Construction Industry Development, The University of Hong Kong were the Associate Partners of the Symposium.

The Symposium aimed at providing a forum for exchanging ideas between construction researchers in the areas of sustainability with a view to fostering a better link between industry and academia. Further, the symposium made a platform to discuss sustainability challenges faced by other countries and mechanisms used to address the challenges, so that the Sri-Lankan counterparts could be enriched in the knowledge rather than reinventing the wheel.

Symposium was held with the presence of Hon. Faiszer Musthapa, Deputy Minister of Investment Promotion as the chief guest. Prof. Ananda Jayawardena, Vice Chancellor of the University of Moratuwa and Dr. Wim Bakens, General Secretary, CIB were the Guest of Honours for the event.

Dr. Wim Bakens was the keynote speaker for this event and delivered a keynote speech on “CIB and 20 Years of Sustainable Construction”. It primarily addressed CIB’s contribution to research and innovation within construction sector and ways of helping the building and construction industry to be more relevant to growth of society. The way forward of CIB is to move from information exchange between

researchers and academics via conferences towards helping the industry to make a difference.

Fifty Seven (57) papers were read in the Symposium by both local and international scholars pertaining to the main theme. Many researchers, industry practitioners and students from Sri Lanka, India, Hong Kong, Qatar, Singapore, Australia and United Kingdom took part in this symposium thereby sharing ideas in the area of sustainability in built environment. The diversity of participants stimulated a rich debate of the agenda items.

Towards sustainability, papers were presented on application of sustainable construction and green building strategies to improve user satisfaction levels and assessing the carbon foot print of materials. Studies explored the issues with local standard bidding documents, different bidding strategies employed by contractors and their associated risks and ways of upgrading public procurement processes using sustainable procurement principles. In line with current research, papers highlighted the importance of BIM as a sustainability achievement tool and its application within the Sri Lankan construction industry. Papers presented also focused on integration of sustainable concept in value planning to enhance the value in construction industry, integration project management with asset management to achieve better values in organisations and use of multi-disciplinary concept. Further, symposium paper presenters discussed the different approaches used to develop research, among them: multiple cases, industry surveys and theoretical work offered solutions for best practices and development with sustainability.

As the final event, the symposium had an interesting and participatory panel discussion on the topic of “fulfilling sustainable construction needs in developing countries through the academic industry partnerships”. Panelists comprised of eminent academics; Prof. Mohan Kumaraswamy, Dr. Andrew Ross and Assist. Prof. Shekhar Nagargoje and industry practitioners; Prof. Asanga Gunawansa, Mr. Julian Lee and Eng. Ranjith Gunatilleke. The discussion highlighted that the academic research directed towards sustainable construction should be partnering with the industry. Panelists further expressed the views in relation to steps such as changes to laws, regulations, structure and procurement strategies used within the construction

industry, both academics and practitioners need to take towards sustainable construction.

Built Environment Project and Asset Management (BEPAM), a journal published by Emerald Group Publishing, presented BEPAM Best Paper Award to the paper entitled '*Developing a TBPE Scoring Framework for Assessing Total Building Performance*' by Nazeer Fathima Sabrina and Nayanathara De Silva and BEPAM Highly Commended Paper to the paper entitled '*Designing a Whole-Life Cost Index for Non-Residential Buildings*' by Goh Bee Hua.

Ceylon Institute of Builders (CIOB) presented the Best Paper Award to the paper entitled '*Sustainable Structural Material Combining Recycled Aggregate and Steel Fibres*' by Vivian W.Y. Tam, Olivia Mirza, Sepani Senaratne and Won-Hee Kang and the Best Presentation Award to Julian C.F. Lee for the presentation titled '*Carbon Labelling Scheme for Construction Products: The Benchmark for Low Carbon Materials*'.

In conclusion, the 3rd World Construction Symposium 2014 is seen as another highly successful event for the organizers, particularly for BEMRU, with a good participation by academicians and industrialists from local as well as international presenting papers addressing whole range of sustainability issues within the construction industry.

BEMRU extends our sincere gratitude to Centre for Infrastructure & Construction Industry Development, The University of Hong Kong for the support given to us to make this event a success.

Dr. Yasangika Sandanayake

Dr. Nirodha Fernando

Dr. Gayani Karunasena

Scientific Committee Chairs

24 July 2014

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Brief Report

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presenting papers addressing whole range of sustainability issues within the construction industry. Symposium organisers extend their sincere gratitude to Centre for Infrastructure & Construction Industry Development, The University of Hong Kong for the support given to us to make this event a success.

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