



## Recent Achievements and Events

16 October 2003

NUS To Host Joint International Symposium Of CIB Working Commissions

The Department of Building, National University of Singapore will host a major international symposium on the challenges posed by the knowledge-based economy to the construction industry from 22 to 24 October 2003 at The Pan Pacific Singapore. The symposium will be officially opened by Her Excellency Ms S.N. Sigcau, Minister of Public Works, Republic of South Africa on Wednesday 22 October 2003 at 9.00 am at the Pacific 3 Ballroom, Pan Pacific Singapore.

The symposium is held in collaboration with the International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction (CIB) which is based in The Netherlands. Dedicated to the research and documentation of developments within the building industry, CIB is the world's foremost organisation for construction researchers and practitioners. The three working commissions of CIB which will meet in Singapore are – CIB W55: Building Economics; CIB W65: Organisation and Management of Construction and CIB W107: Construction in Developing Countries.

The main theme of the symposium is "Knowledge Construction" and its objectives are to:

- ascertain the challenges of the knowledge-based economy and how construction industries, enterprises and individual practitioners can meet these demands;
- consider appropriate national programmes and corporate strategies;
- determine suitable relationships among enterprises and practitioners, and between government and industry.

The sub-themes are: The Knowledge Age and Its Implications for Construction; New Models of the Construction Industry, Project and Process; Developing the Resources; Sustainable Construction; Competitive Strategies for a New Age; International Construction; Innovation in Construction; Developing Countries Issues; Championing, and Networks for, Industry Development.

The keynote speakers and their topics include:

1. Dr Erkki Leppävuori, Director-General, VTT, Technical Research Centre of Finland  
'Improving the performance of the construction industry'
2. Prof Fred Moavenzadeh, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA  
'International construction: An evolving market both in terms of demand and supply'
3. Dr Wim Bakens, Secretary-General of the CIB  
'CIB and Revaluing Construction'
4. Dr Frits Scheublin, Director of Engineering, HGB, Hollandsche Beton Group, The Netherlands and Professor, Eindhoven Technical University  
'Is there a global future for the construction industry?'
5. Mr Yasuo Ueda, Shimizu Corporation, Japan  
'Technology and knowledge fusions toward construction innovation'

Some of the papers which will be presented by faculty members and students from the NUS Department of Building are:

- Construction subcontracting in Singapore

Mr Lim Kwee Hoe

- Materials waste management in Singapore construction industry  
Prof George Ofori and Mr Lawrence L. Ekanayake

- Understanding construction fatalities in Singapore: prevention versus cure – a dynamic approach  
Dr Evelyn Teo Ai Lin and Mr Adrian Chong Fook Weng

- The role of residents in the upgrading process of public housing  
Mr Raymond Wong Chun Weng

About 170 participants comprising leading researchers in construction management and economics and senior executives of major international and local firms involved in the construction industry from 30 countries are expected to attend this event. Some 150 papers and five keynote papers will be presented at the Symposium.

More information on the symposium can be found at [www.bdg.nus.edu.sg/ickc](http://www.bdg.nus.edu.sg/ickc).

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