

# CIB IN A PERIOD OF TRANSITION (ABSTRACT)

**Bakens<sup>1</sup>, Wim**

The aim of CIB is to stimulate and facilitate international collaboration and information exchange in the field of building and construction related research, technology development and documentation.

CIB claims to be the world's foremost international association in its field. Of course there are other international associations that cover a part of the scope of CIB, but they are all somehow specialised, either on a certain topic or aspect like Robotics in Construction or High Rise Buildings or Materials Testing or Civil Engineering while CIB covers all topics and aspects, or on a certain region of the world like Western Europe while CIB covers the whole world. In this context a trend is the growth of partnerships between CIB and Specialised International Associations.

Before 1995 the average number of new CIB Members per year was about 35. For some reasons in 1995 things have changed. The number of new Members in 1995 was 65, a new all time record. And now, in the first four months of 1996, we already could add about 40 new Members.

Until now still the emphasis in the composition of the CIB membership is on European Members. However, in the composition of the new Members since the beginning of 1995 there is a growing emphasis on Members both from the USA and from countries in South East Asia, like Japan, China and Korea.

Concerning the activities covered by the CIB Working Commissions and Task Groups In the first part of CIB's history the emphasis was strongly on technical topics. Since about 10 years this emphasis is shifting to the non-technical topics, with as examples Legal and Procurement Practices, Architectural management, the Performance Concept and Urban Infrastructures. Since recently things again seem to be shifting. This time the emphasis seems to be more on topics that need an integrated approach.

Examples of recently established CIB Commissions are:

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<sup>1</sup> Ph.D., CIB Secretary General, wim.bakens@cibworld.nl



- W98 Intelligent and Responsive Buildings
- W99 Safety and Health on Construction Sites
- TG19 Designing for the Ageing Society

In May 1996 The CIB Programme Committee may have decided to establish the following new CIB Commissions:

- Virtual Reality and Multi Media in Construction
- Geographical Information Systems
- Culture in Construction
- Construction and Climatic Changes

A last major trend of influence on the various CIB Operations is the implementation of Electronic Communication Technologies. In this context I expect the CIB Home Page will evolve into the centre of our communications both with our Members and with non or non-yet Members. I recommend you all to visit our site at <http://bcn.arch.ufl.edu/cib.html>.