

FIG Commission 10 – Construction Economics and Management Work Plan 2007-2010

1. Terms of Reference

- Construction Economics, including Quantity Surveying, Building Surveying, Cost Engineering and Management, Estimating and Tendering
- Commercial Management including Procurement, Risk Management and Contract Law for construction and non construction activity
- Project and Programme Management including Planning / Scheduling.

2. Mission Statement

- To advance the professional practice of surveyors working in all disciplines of Construction Economics, Commercial Management and Project Management
- To research and identify “best practice” of surveyors working in different cultures and economies
- To facilitate the exchange and interchange of information, knowledge and experience between surveyors
- To publicise and promote the work of surveyors to the public, particularly young people, governments and non-governmental organisations, and enhance its perception of the value of surveyors and the services that they deliver
- To co-operate and work with fellow surveyors in all branches and groupings of the profession to further the objectives of FIG.

3. General

The overall theme for Commission 10 is summarised as the “Contribution of the surveyor in the economic development, management and realisation of projects and facilities”.

The Commission is fully cognisant of the pressing need to achieve understanding of its rôle amongst FIG colleagues so as to enlist their participation in its work; and, of the need to encourage suitably qualified national associations of (quantity) surveyors to join FIG. Success in these aims will reduce the perceived Euro-centricity of the Commission.

The plan for 2007-2010 is to concentrate on developing and disseminating understanding of the requirements and processes necessary to facilitate and encourage the investment of private finance into projects.

This focus has been chosen because all projects require finance to move forwards. However, projects in the developing world are often constrained by the source of funds whilst projects in the more developed world are constrained by the allocation of funds - both need to attract funding for their projects. To gain finance for a project from private sources, project sponsors need to present a business case that demonstrates the long-term financial viability of the proposed project.

Historically, BOT and DBFO procurement strategies have been utilised internationally for toll roads, bridges and the like. More recently, PFI and PPP arrangements have been developed as procurement strategies for hospitals, schools, defence and transport projects. There has been much pioneering work in the development of PFI and PPP strategies and this knowledge can be shared and developed worldwide. The transparent and visible use of “best practice” commercial management techniques will greatly increase a sponsor’s ability to raise private finance for a project. Improvements in the raising of finance for projects has the potential to unlock funds and bring about the earlier realisation of projects for the benefit of both users and the professionals engaged in their delivery and ongoing management.

The ‘Policy issues’ specified against each Working Group will be addressed and carried forward in the context of the plan as set out above.

Commission 10 is keen to work with other Commissions so as to achieve unity of purpose in the pursuit of inter-disciplinary interests especially on issues related to project management.

In addition to the specific activities above, the Commission will support and contribute to FIG Task Forces and the Standards Network. The Commission will also respond to the FIG Council to address new issues as they emerge.

It will also be considered whether the name of the Commissions should be changed for the next term of office to bring greater focus to commercial and project management.

4. Working Groups

Working Group 10.1 – Construction Economics

Policy issues

- Map skills and knowledge process for both Quantity Surveyors and Building Surveyors
- Research current practice in differing cultures and economies to develop and publish generic guidelines as to “best practice”
- To monitor and, if possible, join and contribute to research projects being carried out by others
- Minority and gender issues and enhancing representation of under-represented groups.

Chair

Ms. Sara J Wilkinson (Melbourne, Australia), email: saraw@unimelb.edu.au

Specific projects

- To work with other Commissions to support their work on the technical and cost issues of affordable housing and associated matters in developing and emerging economies
- To support and monitor the Commission’s attention to all minority interest issues.

Publication(s)

- Report at each FIG working week outlining activity and progress.

Working Group 10.2 – Commercial Management

Policy issues

- To study, analyse and compare different procurement models and publish generic guidelines as to “best practice”.

Acting Chair

Mr. Geoff K. Schmitt (United Kingdom), e-mail: Shirley.Bithell@ccmassociates.com

Specific projects

- To work with other Commissions to support their work on the procurement of infrastructure and affordable housing in developing and emerging economies.

Publication(s)

- Report at each FIG working week outlining activity and progress.

Working group 10.3 –Project and Programme Management

Policy issues

- To describe and compare different Project Management methods and publish generic guidelines as to “best practice”
- To describe and detail a “best practice” model for the successful management of multi-project programmes in both developed and developing economies.

Chair

Mr. Richard A Huckler, MBE (United Kingdom), email: Richard.Huckler@costain.com

Vice-chair: Ms. Leonie Newnham (Australia), e-mail: Shirley.Bithell@ccmassociates.com

Specific Projects

- A review of and comparison of construction procurement-Europe, and a different procurement policy
- A comparison and analysis of the methods of design, procurement and construction of buildings and their engineering installation.

Publication(s)

- Report at each FIG working week outlining activity and progress.

5. Co-operation with sister associations

The Chairman attends the periodic meetings of the Council of European Construction Economists (CEEC) and will initiate a review of the current Memorandum of Understanding with the International Cost Engineering Council. The agreement needs reappraisal and development so as to be more effective and therefore beneficial to the parties.

The Commission will seek collaboration with the African and Pacific Associations of Quantity Surveyors (AAQS and PAQS) which are both understood as affiliates of ICEC.

6. Calendar of events

Full participation in FIG Working Weeks and, where appropriate and likely to be beneficial, FIG regional and strategic meetings.

7. Commission Officers

Commission Chairman

Mr. Andrew W. Morley
UNITED KINGDOM
Tel. + 44 1733 892727
E-mail: Andrew.Morley@ccmassociates.com

Commission Secretariat

Ms. Shirley Bithell
CCM Associates Limited
89 Priors Road
Peterborough
PE3 9EE
UNITED KINGDOM
Tel. + 44 1733 892727
Fax + 44 1733 896475
E-mail: Shirley.Bithell@ccmassociates.com

Vice Chairwoman and Chairwoman of WG 10.1 – Construction Economics

Ms. Sara J. Wilkinson
University of Melbourne
Faculty of Architecture, Building & Planning
Melbourne
AUSTRALIA
Tel. + 61 3 8344 8733
Fax + 61 3 8344 0328
E-mail: saraw@unimelb.edu.au

Acting Vice Chairman and Acting Chairman of WG 10.2 – Commercial Management

Mr. Geoff K. Schmitt
UNITED KINGDOM
E-mail: Shirley.Bithell@ccmassociates.com

Vice Chairman and Chairman of WG 10.3 – Project and Programme Management

Mr. Richard A. Hucker, MBE
UNITED KINGDOM
E-mail: Richard.Hucker@costain.com

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