



International Council for Research and  
Innovation in Building and Construction

## **MINUTES**

### **Meeting of CIB Working Commission (W113) on Law and Dispute Resolution and CIB Task Group (TG69) on Green Buildings and the Law**

**3.00 pm – 5.00 pm, Wednesday 9th September 2009, Chemical Engineering  
Building, University of Cape Town, Upper Campus. COBRA 2009 RICS  
Research Conference**

#### **Attendance**

Paul Chynoweth, University of Salford, UK (Chair)  
Henk Visscher, Delft University of Technology, Netherlands  
Frits Meijer, Delft University of Technology, Netherlands  
Michael Guan Rui, Hong Kong University, China  
Asanga Gunawansa, National University of Singapore  
Tinus Maritz, University of Pretoria, South Africa  
Julie Adshead, University of Salford, UK  
Deniz Artan Ilter, Istanbul Technical University, Turkey  
Petrus Steyn, Futurescope Town and Regional Planners, South Africa  
Jim Mason, University of the West of England, UK  
Andrew Kelly, University of Wollongong, New South Wales, Australia

#### **Apologies**

Tim McLernon, University of Ulster, UK  
Jill Morgan, Swansea University  
Mark Stallworthy, Swansea University  
Joanna Poon, Nottingham Trent University  
John Adrianse, London South Bank University, UK  
Jeremy Coggins, University of South Australia,  
Jeremy Gibberd, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, South Africa

#### **1. Welcome & introductions**

Those present were welcomed by the Chair and introduced themselves, and their role within their institutions. Apologies (above) were noted from those who were unable to attend.

#### **2. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2008, at the BEAR 2008 Conference, Building Resilience, Heritage Kandalama Hotel, Kandalama, Sri Lanka had previously been circulated and these were confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

### **3. Matters arising from previous meeting**

There were no matters arising that were not dealt with under the current agenda.

### **4. CIB Working Commission W113 progress report**

The Chair gave a brief history of the development of W113, from its roots in the BEL-NET built environment law list to its current form as an international group with a different perspective on legal issues under the auspices of the CIB. He identified four parts of the W113 community:

- Networking and conferences
- The Journal of Law in the Built Environment
- The Task Groups
- The BEL-NET e-mail list

The Chair explained that the conferences have been running from 2006 at University College London through to the current RICS conference in Cape Town. The Journal, he said, provides an outlet for the publication of international and comparative work, often focusing upon the policy side of the law. There would be an issue of the journal based upon the Cape Town conference with up to seven papers published. Papers should conform to author guidelines and be between 4500 and 7000 words in length. The Chair summarised the work of the three current task groups (TG69 Green Buildings and the Law, TG67 Statutory Adjudication in Construction and TG68 Construction Mediation).

### **5. CIB Task Group TG69 progress report**

Julie Adshead gave an update of progress with Task Group TG69. She reported that the deadline for submissions of chapters for the end publication was the end of December and everything was on schedule to submit for publication in May. Tinus Maritz recommended a contact for TG69, which Asanga Gunawansa promised to pursue.

### **6. Opportunities for further law-related CIB task groups**

The Chair called for interest in new task groups. He explained that he was keen to develop a task group on 'Building Information Modelling (BIM)'. An e-mail had gone out to the CNBR mailing list requesting expressions of interest, but no-one with a legal background had responded. Henk Visscher expressed some interest in a task group on building regulations, with a slant on policy and enforcement. It was thought that it would be good to launch such a new task group at the World Building Congress at Salford in May 2010. Andrew Kelly asked for some more information on the life span of the task groups and Julie Adshead clarified that they usually exist for three years or so with the possibility of extending this period. Jim Mason expressed an interest in developing a task group on 'Law and Ethics'. Asanga Gunawansa suggested the possibility of extending the TG69 Task Group to look at climate change and adaptation. He promised to send something through to Julie Adshead on the potential project. Further discussion took place on the possibility of new task groups. The Chair promised to investigate the

possibility of a Hong Kong partner for Henk Visscher. Tinus Maritz expressed an interest in BIM and indicated that there might be strong support from Pretoria.

## **7. CIB internet-based seminars**

The Chair reported that there had been a suggestion from CIB that every task group and working commission have internet-based seminars (for task groups, every three years at the end of their life). A pilot was going ahead involving three working commissions. W113 had been approached to produce some 'virtual outlook seminars'. Technical support would be available. The suggestion was that the seminars last two hours with a number of speakers and an interactive facility. Jim Mason commented that there were people in the business of organising these type of events. Henk Visscher suggested that there would have to be a clear subject area and direction that would be of interest. It was suggested that perhaps this might provide a good testing ground for a new task group. The format might be powerpoint with 'voice over'.

## **8. Opportunities for other law-related projects, activities and events**

Tinus Maritz suggested something on 'curriculum content'. He noted that there were quite a number of people interested in pedagogical issues. Salford's Centre for Education in the Built Environment was mentioned and it was suggested that there might be a study on the teaching of law in the built environment. It was thought that this was an area that W113 should be looking at. We should be sharing knowledge on education in a general sense. There could perhaps be a depository for shared resources hosted by CIB. One particular area of interest was project-based law delivery. It was noted that a great deal had already been written in this area, but someone was needed to lead and bring it together. Henk Visscher mentioned that his group were looking for research funding and it was suggested that he might utilise BEL-NET to find other interested parties and facilitate international collaboration in research bidding.

## **9. Forthcoming meetings**

The next meeting would be at the World Building Congress at Salford. The focus in the legal element of the conference would be on construction law and dispute resolution. The deadline for abstracts was the end of October. It was expected that this would be a very large conference with around 1000 abstracts. The next meeting after this would be at COBRA 2010 in Paris.

## **10. Any Other Business**

The question was raised as to whether W113 could benefit from its significant contribution to the RICS conferences. Another question asked related to W113 having its own conferences, possibly with a partnership with planning (Rachelle Alterman) and/or housing (Jane Ball).

## **11. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be at the World Building Congress in Salford, May 2010. A publication launch for some of the task group publications is planned for COBRA, 2010 in Paris.