



NRC Publications Archive Archives des publications du CNRC

Sixth CIB Congress Meets in Budapest, 3-10 October 1974 Crawford, C. B.

For the publisher's version, please access the DOI link below./ Pour consulter la version de l'éditeur, utilisez le lien DOI ci-dessous.

Publisher's version / Version de l'éditeur:

<https://doi.org/10.4224/20359237>

Technical Note (National Research Council of Canada. Division of Building Research), 1974-10-01

NRC Publications Record / Notice d'Archives des publications de CNRC:

<https://nrc-publications.canada.ca/eng/view/object/?id=56eaed26-de28-4336-931e-45f03be50ced>

<https://publications-cnrc.canada.ca/fra/voir/objet/?id=56eaed26-de28-4336-931e-45f03be50ced>

Access and use of this website and the material on it are subject to the Terms and Conditions set forth at

<https://nrc-publications.canada.ca/eng/copyright>

READ THESE TERMS AND CONDITIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE USING THIS WEBSITE.

L'accès à ce site Web et l'utilisation de son contenu sont assujettis aux conditions présentées dans le site

<https://publications-cnrc.canada.ca/fra/droits>

LISEZ CES CONDITIONS ATTENTIVEMENT AVANT D'UTILISER CE SITE WEB.

Questions? Contact the NRC Publications Archive team at

PublicationsArchive-ArchivesPublications@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca. If you wish to email the authors directly, please see the first page of the publication for their contact information.

Vous avez des questions? Nous pouvons vous aider. Pour communiquer directement avec un auteur, consultez la première page de la revue dans laquelle son article a été publié afin de trouver ses coordonnées. Si vous n'arrivez pas à les repérer, communiquez avec nous à PublicationsArchive-ArchivesPublications@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca.





NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA

DIVISION OF BUILDING RESEARCH

No.

588

TECHNICAL NOTE

PREPARED BY

C. B. Crawford

CHECKED BY

APPROVED BY

DATE October 1974

PREPARED FOR

record purposes

SUBJECT SIXTH CIB CONGRESS MEETS IN BUDAPEST,
3-10 OCTOBER, 1974.

Sixteen Canadians were among the 450 delegates from some 40 countries at the Sixth Congress of the International Council for Building Research Studies and Documentation (CIB) held in Budapest to discuss "The Impact of Research on the Built Environment." Canadians contributed 19 of the nearly 300 papers submitted for publication in the Congress Proceedings. Volume 1, in 2 parts, was available at the Congress. Volume 2, containing additional papers and discussions, will appear early in 1975. Enquiries concerning CIB publications should be directed to the General Secretariat, Weena 704, Post Box 299, Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

CIB was established in 1953 at the urging of the United Nations to encourage, facilitate, and develop international cooperation among member institutes. In Canada the Division of Building Research of the National Research Council is a "Public Full Member"; there are also 6 Canadian "Associate Members" and 3 "Unattached Members." Membership is not a requirement for participation in the Congress, although the Council is struggling to increase both its membership and the participation of all those interested in building research. China participated for the first time at this Congress.

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE COPY

NOT TO BE REMOVED FROM ROOM 201

Delegates were constantly reminded of the enormous building problems facing the developing countries of the world, and many of the leading spokesmen for the developed countries struggled to identify practical plans of action to aid in the solution of the situation which was referred to as pre-catastrophic. It was pointed out on a number of occasions that it is virtually impossible and probably unwise to try to apply directly the modern technology of highly developed societies to the problems of developing nations. One speaker suggested that Westerners should go to developing countries to be educated, not to educate. It was generally agreed that these problems must be solved by the internal effort of each country, aided in all possible ways by the more fortunate nations.

The Congress dealt with 6 general areas of interest:

- 1) User requirements and the built environment.
- 2) The impact of research on design (including building materials; load-bearing and fire-resistant structures; construction of walls, floors and roofs; fire, noise, heat and moisture; building types; and new techniques in lightweight construction and in concrete and reinforced concrete).
- 3) The impact of research on the management process.
- 4) Building standards and regulations.
- 5) The impact of information development on building.
- 6) Future developments of building research and the sponsorship of research.

Except for the opening and closing plenary sessions, delegates had the choice of attending 2 or 3 separate sessions. In each session a key speaker introduced the subject, reviewed the papers relevant to that session and suggested the topics for general discussion. In spite of generally acceptable multi-lingual facilities, debate was almost impossible when all discourse had to be staged and fed through the interpretation system. Consequently, the most useful debate could be observed during the breaks, on the buses, at dinner tables, and during the delightful social occasions arranged so admirably by our Hungarian hosts.

User requirements and the need to consult the users of buildings received an unusual amount of attention at several sessions. This seemed to be somewhat contradictory to the concern mentioned earlier for those

who do not enjoy any shelter at all, but it is obviously a theme of importance in the more developed countries and one to which several building research agencies are giving increasing thought. It does draw attention to the great discrepancy between the user who worries about sound transmission through a ceiling and one whose primary need is to have a roof over his head.

In both the discussions of research sponsorship and information development little was heard from the user. The papers submitted and the discussion at the Congress were provided primarily by professional researchers and professional information officers. Clearly this was unsatisfactory and it led to the exploration of committee structures or other devices designed to improve communication between the users and the producers of buildings without imposing too many bureaucratic constraints. The related problem of getting the results of research into practice was also discussed at several sessions and once again it was identified as a communication problem. One key speaker suggested that research institutes should be assessed on their ability to "produce the goods" rather than on cost/benefit analyses of potential projects which usually cannot be adequately documented. He went on to point out that new problems (e. g., energy crisis, etc.) can only be solved by accumulated knowledge and we must ensure the continuous development of research capital.

Much of the work of CIB is carried out through the more than 30 Working Commissions and Study Groups. Working Commissions try to solve defined problems according to an approved program and time schedule; Study Groups organize symposia on specific subjects. Recently established Working Commissions and Study Groups include W-63 Low-Cost Housing; W-65 Organization and Management of Construction; W-67 Energy Conservation in Building; and S-66 Industrialized Building. Brief reports on these and other general activities were given to the members of CIB at the closing General Assembly by the retiring President, Professor G. Sebestyén of Hungary.

There was much discussion in the General Assembly with respect to the form of future Congresses. Views ranged from a preference for broad general conferences to a preference for discussion of fewer subjects in more detail. Several thought the Congresses ought to include more participation by the Working Commissions. The incoming President, Mr. J. B. Dick, Director of the British Building Research Establishment, paid tribute to the work of Professor Sebestyén and indicated some of the problems to which the new Board would be giving particular attention.

One of the more difficult problems involves the maintenance of an official CIB periodical, considered by many to be an essential vehicle for international communication and cooperation. CIB first published a

periodical in 1968 under the name "Build International. " This was re-constituted in 1972 under the new name "Building Research and Practice. " Financial problems have now led to an arrangement with the Centre Scientifique et Technique du Bâtiment (C. S. T. B.) in Paris to publish a bilingual journal beginning in 1975 under the editorial control of the Board of CIB. The C. S. T. B. has already been publishing a French edition of "Building Research and Practice" by agreement with CIB. Only slight changes are expected to be made in the editorial policy during the first year of the new publishing arrangement.

In addition to the special arrangements for ladies accompanying delegates, the Congress organizers provided interesting week-end tours in the vicinity of Budapest and an extremely well organized technical tour to new housing sites, a pre-cast panel manufacturing plant, a thermal power plant, and a building extension to a paper mill. The unseasonably rainy weather during the Congress was more than compensated by the warmth of our Hungarian hosts and it is certain that the Sixth CIB Congress will be remembered with much pleasure and satisfaction by all of the delegates.