



## CIB NEWS ARTICLE

### International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction

Providing a global network for international exchange and cooperation in research and innovation in building and construction, in support of an improved building process and of improved performance of the built environment.

December 2009

## Around the Task Groups and Working Commissions

### W108 - Climate Change and the Built Environment

## New CIB W108 Website


**A Gentle Whisper in Your Ear'**  
J. Walsh – Consultant Architect, Fire Engineer & Technical Controller

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Sustainable Adaptation to Climate Change

**CIB W108: Climate Change & the Built Environment**

A Working Commission of CIB ([International Council for Research and Innovation in Building & Construction](#)) ... W108 is an international, multi-stakeholder, trans-disciplinary forum for discussion on research and innovation in Climate Change (including Variability & Extremes) and the Built Environment.



All aspects of Built Environment Performance, where these may be affected by Climate Change, fall within the scope of W108. It is necessary, therefore, to continue to expand and strengthen the Commission's Membership in order to attract not only environmental researchers, but the many disciplines relating to building design, materials and structures, infrastructure, service utilities, as well as construction operations. There is also a need to develop a close relationship with other CIB Working Commissions and Task Groups devoted to those specialist areas.

**W108's Aims & Objectives**

- To establish a forum for exchanging meteorological data, climate change scenarios, research findings, and formulating joint research projects which examine the climate change impacts on construction and the built environment, and measures to anticipate and ameliorate such impacts ;
- To facilitate the transfer of data and research findings to practitioners, with the aim of influencing building design and adaptation, and the revision of relevant standards, codes and specifications so that these adequately take account of the potential impacts of climate change ;
- To be a vehicle for sourcing funds for collaborative research into the impacts of climate change on the built environment.

**CIB W108's Co-Ordinator**  
Mr. Jean-Luc Salagnac, Centre Scientifique & Technique du Bâtiment (CSTB), France.

**W108 Membership**  
Members of this Working Commission have to be either a Representative of a CIB Member Organisation or an Individual CIB Member.

by

C.J. Walsh

Nearing the end of 2009 in Copenhagen and as progress on finalizing a global agreement on Climate Change Mitigation grinds wearily forward at a pace, which is far, far too slow to meet our planet's needs arguments in favour of the more widespread, aggressive, concerted and 'real' implementation of Climate Change Adaptation, i.e., 'Reliably implementing policies, practices, projects and institutional reforms with the aim of reducing the adverse impacts and/or realizing the benefits

directly/indirectly associated with climate change, including variability and extremes – in a manner which is compatible with Sustainable Human and Social Development' become stronger, at the macro-level, every day while, at micro-levels, the resultant legal, ethical and moral pressures to design, construct and operate our Built Environment more sustainably increase exponentially.

## W108 Project

Initiated at a June 2008 Meeting of CIB Working Commission W108: 'Climate Change and the Built Environment' in Nantes, France, W108's International Project on Climate Change, including Variability and Extremes, will result in the publication of the Report: 'Sustainable Climate Change Adaptation in the Built Environment', during 2010.

This Report will comprise 2 Parts:

- I National Perspectives on Sustainable Climate Change Adaptation (currently involving approximately 10-12 countries);
- II International Synthesis on Sustainable Climate Change Adaptation.

## W108 Website

Details about the International Project can be found at the New CIB W108 Website:

[www.cjwalsh.ie/cib-w108-climate-change-the-built-environment/](http://www.cjwalsh.ie/cib-w108-climate-change-the-built-environment/)

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