



Status of iiSBE Academic & Research Forum on Sustainable Building

We have told you before about the launch of the iiSBE Academic and Research Forum, a group which will allow academic and research institutes to raise their voices, bring out joint views, evaluate international politics as well as cooperate in research and education in this field.

A meeting of the Forum was held in Barcelona on 8 February. The eight launching members include organisations from Norway, Netherlands, Brasil, Japan, South Africa, Czech Republic, Germany and Austria. Many more organizations have indicated interest in joining.

The first specific initiatives include: a discussion platform on research questions, a joint initiative of four universities for an International masters program, a working group to explore a own dedicated peer reviewed electronic journal, and a PhD network and conference.

It is expected that this Forum can grow into a lively community that can take the lead in independent evaluation of Sustainable Building activities, and contribute to the knowledge and debate on the absolute decrease of environmental impact of buildings and built environment.

Contact: Ronald Rovers, coordinator Academic and research Forum rovers@naororo.nl.

SB13-14 Conference Series Barcelona Kickoff Meeting

A meeting took place in Barcelona on February 10 to formally launch the process for the SB13 and SB14 conference series. As some of our readers are aware, previous SB conference cycles have begun in a similar way, with a face-to-face meeting to make sure that all conference organizers are fully informed as to the intent of the series and are able to share ideas and news about their respective events.

The SB13-14 kickoff meeting took place in Barcelona, with the participation of six SB13 organizers and SB14 organizers, plus the four international co-sponsors (CIB, iiSBE, UNEP-SBCI and FIDIC). The coordination meeting was organised by Emilio Mitre and his colleagues in GBC España.

The event began with a presentation on the background of the SB13-14 Conference Series and its aims. The SB13 conferences updates, presented in person or via remote connections, included:

- SB13 Guimarães, Portugal, by Luis Bragança and Ricardo Mateus
- SB13 Prague, Czech Republic, Peter Hajek and Antonin Lupisek
- SB13 Graz, Austria, by Alexander Passer
- SB13 Munich, Germany, by Natalie Essig
- SB13 Oulu, Finland, by Appu Haapio
- SB13 Seoul, Korea, by Sung Woo Shin

These six events are definite, but there were also two more possible conferences presented:

- SB13 Manila, The Philippines, by Greg Foliente
- SB13 Santa Monica, by Pablo LaRoche (possible event)

Emilio Miguel Mitre also commented the latest news from those who had been unable to connect: Edward Angadjaja, as organizer of SB13 Singapore has confirmed that the conference will take place but has not advanced additional information; Alfred Ngowi, as organizer from SB13 Gaborone (or



iiSBE update

Cape Town) also has reported that the conference there will proceed, but he has no additional information so far, and Robby Soetanto has reported that the organization of SB13 Coventry in the UK also goes on. There is also a potential for a small conference in Havana, Cuba (see next news item).

Practically all of the organisers have an established calendar with the key dates (call for abstracts and papers, peer reviews, deadlines...) and have defined their objectives, themes and areas of their conferences. Nearly all have defined the venue and some programme content has already been developed. The three Central Europe conferences intend to establish coordination between their events, and SB13 Guimarães would like to become an Iberian event, in collaboration with GBCe.

With regard to additional events joining the SB13 series, there was discussion on the character of such events, following Emilio Miguel Mitre's proposal to accept other events with a less academic approach. Giulia Barbanos's proposal that other events could be accepted if they show an adequate profile, although they would have a different status, was accepted.

Vanessa Gomes (Brazil) made a very interesting proposal with regard to having a "virtual" SB13 conference for Latin America with high academic profile that could be linked to another larger event, probably with a commercial approach.

The organisers of SB14 Barcelona have already announced their intent to provide a high level of leadership and coordination of the content of SB13 events, in order to maximize the coherence and impact of the overall series. This will, of course, require the agreement of SB13 organizers. With respect to this issue, an intense discussion took place on the subject of the template GBCe would like to use to gather information for SB14. Emilio Miguel Mitre introduced it, and expressed the need for helping developing it further in the definition of adequate indicators for housing, seen by GBCe as the most relevant section of sustainable building. Curt Carrigan (UNEP-SBCI) offered to provide the numerous documents the UNEP-SBCI has on the subject; Wim Bakens (CIB) said it was a very difficult task that could lead to valuable outputs; François Baillon (FIDIC) was not positive about it, and Nils Larsson and Giulia Barbanos stressed the importance of addressing communities at large rather than just housing. More work is clearly needed to define the proposed information template.

The work done by the GTR (Technical Rehabilitation Group) on the Spanish situation of the housing stock was presented by Dolores Huerta as being relevant to the discussion.

Dolores Huerta presented the state of development of the SB13-14 Conference Series Webpage, whose structure and image was very positively accepted. The domain will be www.gbc-europe.org and all material will be presented in English. The webpage will be developed by GBCe under the supervision of the four co-sponsors, so that it can be passed on to the following three year SB16-17 series. A sponsoring and partnership space will be very relevant, as a transversal and integrative measure that could attract interest.

Emilio Miguel Mitre, GBCe; SB14 representative and SB13 Coordinator
and Nils Larsson, representative of the four international co-sponsors



iiSBE activities in Havana

A few months ago, Nils Larsson (our XD) visited Havana as a tourist and while there he met with Dr. Julio César, an urban planner who is developing a master plan for the revitalization of the old centre of Havana. With the financial help of Norway and cooperation of the Council for European Urbanism (CEU), the International Network for Traditional Building (INTBAU) and the Havana Historian's Office,

Dr. César has run a series of six annual workshops in Havana to develop ideas for the project. Those attending have included professionals and student architects and planners from Cuba, Norway, Italy, USA and Canada.

NL was asked to make a presentation to the group on sustainability issues, and did so on February 22nd. During the



next two days he observed the work and also prepared two proposals for further discussion: one for a project to gather data that would support implementation of the plan (which currently has no official status) and another for an SB13 event to be held in Havana during 2013. If the SB13 conference goes ahead, the thematic starting point will be the Master Plan and its relationship to sustainability issues.

The plan itself, named 'A Master Plan for 21st Century Havana', is a comprehensive urban plan for the future development of Havana aimed at preserving the city's spirit and its historic, urban and architectural legacy, while encouraging its future urban and economic development. The urban plan expresses a holistic vision that is independent of the government and of the official planning agencies. It looks toward Havana's future while remaining true to its history, its people's idiosyncrasies and its landscapes. For the first time, it provides a comprehensive vision, spanning





News about sustainable
building from around the world

March 2012

iiSBE update

both urban planning and urban design, in such a way as to give continuity to Havana's traditions and to seek a contemporary image for the city.

The ideas in the plan have been tested and further developed at each workshop and consultations with professionals and citizens from Cuba and abroad. The emphasis has been and remains focused on the main concepts that the plan is based upon such as how can quality of life be improved in the different neighborhoods by upgrading infrastructure, increasing public and green space and providing new housing by urban infill; how the waterfront can be revitalized to provide the city with a new image and to become an economic magnet with the harbor sector as its traditional engine, and how the polycentric structure of Havana can be reinforced, to strengthen Havana's cultural heritage. Added to this is a new concern about environmental and sustainability issues.

It is recognized that if the plan is to be implemented it will have to gain some form of official status, and this in turn will require the support of data that indicates the practical gains that will accrue to the City of Havana through its implementation. Subject to funding availability, it is planned to launch a technical project during 2012 that will lead to the development of data on the current and potential performance of the area in aspects such as transportation, energy, water and waste. The project is planned for completion by January 2013, which will allow the study results to form a focus of the 2013 workshop. The workshop results will then form an important part of discussions at the SB13 conference.

iiSBE Technical meetings in Barcelona

On February 8th and 9th, iiSBE held three meetings in Barcelona. 20 members of iiSBE attended, including many European members and also Vanessa and Maristela Gomes from Brazil.

The meeting on the 8th focused on the Academic and Research Forum, and was chaired by Ronald Rovers. The current core document describing the initiative was reviewed and updated, and several management decisions were taken. The website for Forum members is currently being finalised and it was announced that the initiative will be formally launched when 8 member organizations have made written commitments.

The first meeting on the 9th concerned the IMoSB (International Masters for SB) project and was chaired by Luis Bragança, who is head of the group as well as being President of iiSBE. Discussions covered the establishment of an external review group, a simplification of the scheme for the attendance of students at the four partner universities, and a reduction of the originally anticipated 90 ECTS academic units to 60. Luis Bragança also proposed to launch a doctoral program in parallel and this was accepted. Antonin Lupisek (CZ) suggested that we should find more private corporations to join as associate members.

The rest of the 9th was devoted to a review of the various technical projects that have been undertaken by iiSBE. Giulia Barbano of iiSBE Italia presented two initiatives: an on-line training international SB program that will be launched later this year, and an urban assessment tool that is being developed in cooperation with Serge Salat, who heads the Urban Morphology Lab in Paris. This is a funded project and the project is due to be completed by the end of the year. The concepts developed in the project will be presented at a conference in Trondheim during Jun and another workshop in Maastricht in October.



News about sustainable
building from around the world

March 2012

iiSBE update

NL presented an outline of the SBTool for 2012, which is now complete. The system is scalable from a maximum scope of 100+ criteria, down to as few as a dozen, and it provides generic criteria for Design, Construction and Operations phases. There is a separate module for assessment of project sites. The development work will now be managed by Manuel Macias at UPM Madrid. The system will be mounted on the iiSBE website for feedback by potential users.

Nils Larsson also presented the status of the Synergy Zone project, which outlines approaches to maximizing efficiencies in neighbourhood-scale services. This project is now at a stage where further work required funding and a pilot project site. Larsson also presented the status of the work on Sustainability of Very Tall Buildings, which is now looking for partners to develop the concepts outlined in the work plan.

Finally, Charles Kibert joined the meeting by Skype from University of Florida. He is currently building membership in his group and expects to hold a meeting by mid-year.

Canadian iiSBE Team activity

Many of our colleagues may be unaware of the fact that there is a Canadian iiSBE team that has managed SB Challenge activities over the last ten years. The team is comprised of 10-20 senior professionals from across the country, and is led by Gordon Shymko of Calgary, who is one of Canada's best-known energy engineers. Fund-raising activities have allowed the team to carry out performance assessments, using various versions of SBTool, for all of the global SB conferences over the last decade.

The Canadian team holds teleconference calls on a regular basis, and holds one or two face-to-face meetings each year. At a recent tele conference, the report on SB11 and the related SB Challenge activities was finalised, and this will now be distributed to sponsors and professional groups across the country.

There will also be presentations of recent activities at professional events, and the first for 2012 will be made in Winnipeg for the staff of Manitoba Hydro and other local professionals.

For the development of SB Challenge 2014, the Canadian Team has suggested that the process should be focused on comparing current and historical performance assessments, e.g. raising the issue of whether buildings live up to their potential. Giulia Barbano of iiSBE International is in charge of the international SB Challenge process, and she is currently considering this proposal.

Inaugural issue: Smart and Sustainable Built Environment (SASBE) Journal

To celebrate the forthcoming publication of the inaugural issue of the [Smart and Sustainable Built Environment](#) (SASBE) in June, Emerald is now making available the six pre-published papers of this issue.

To access the papers, please log on to [table of contents](#) and enter the following login ID:

Username: **SASBE2012**

Password: **emerald**



News about sustainable
building from around the world

March 2012

iiSBE update

This period of complimentary access will expire on **16th May 2012**. Please note that the papers have been made available via our pre-publication system, EarlyCite, and as such appear here as final draft versions, having not yet undergone the editing and formatting process.

SASBE, a CIB encouraged Journal, aims to inform research and industry practice on integrated approaches to developing smart and sustainable built environments.

The Editor is inviting papers for inclusion in forthcoming issues and reviewers who wish to contribute to the quality of the journal. If you are interested please email the Editor, Jay Yang, at <mailto:j.yang@qut.edu.au> or register directly on the journal's review system at: <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/sasbe>. For more information on how to submit manuscripts please consult the journal's [author guidelines](#).

The publishers and editor welcome your feedback and questions. If you have any comments or questions please contact the publisher, Valerie Robillard, at <mailto:vrobillard@emeraldinsight.com>

SEB'12 - International Conference on Sustainability in Energy and Buildings, 3 – 5 September 2012, Stockholm, Sweden

<http://seb.sustainedenergy.org>

The Fourth International Conference on Sustainability in Energy and Buildings, SEB'12, will take place in Stockholm, Sweden at the KTH Royal Institute of Technology in partnership with KES International. SEB'12 invites participation and paper submissions across a broad range of sustainability-related topics relevant to the main theme of Sustainability in Energy and Buildings. Applicable areas include technology for renewable energy and sustainability in the building environments, optimisation and modeling techniques, information and communication technology, behaviour and practices, and applications.

Building Sustainability Assessment (BSA) 2012 Workshops

The organizers of the Building Sustainability Assessment (BSA) conference announce a series of workshops to be held as part of the Porto BSA conference in May 23-25. Each workshop will be coordinated by an expert directly involved in the development of the BSA / LCA tool or method in discussion. The Workshops will be practical oriented and discussion about future developments on this context will be promoted.

These Workshops will:

- Allow participants to get in contact with the international state-of-art in the context of BSA and LCA tools;
- Connect tools and methods' developers with its users;
- Bring together BSA and LCA tools and methods' developers, stakeholders, designers, policy-makers, which allow cutting-edge discussions about the structure and contribution of each tool and method for the sustainable construction;
- Highlight successful case studies of certified buildings within each certification scheme.



News about sustainable
building from around the world

March 2012

iiSBE update

The Workshops are integrated in the program of the International Conference BSA 2012 and will be held during the last day of the conference (May 25th). These events will take place in the Hotel HF Ipanema Porto Conference Hall. For conference information, go to www.bsa2012.org.

Program / Schedule

Workshops will be held on May 25th. During the day, there will be 12 workshop sessions, each one with the minimum duration of 1h30m. At the end of the Workshops there will be a Plenary Session to debate the context of BSA and LCA tools and methods.

The following table presents the list of Workshops to be held and the schedule.

	ROOM_1	ROOM_2	ROOM_3	ROOM_4
09:00-10:30	SBTool Int. (Nils Larsson)	LEED (Joel Ann Todd)	LiderA (Manuel Pinheiro)	SuperBuildings (Tarja Hakkinen / Petr Hajek)
10:30-11:00	Coffee-break			
11:00-12:30	SBTool PT (Luís Bragança / Ricardo Mateus)	CAP'EM / SimaPro (Marisa Vieira)	GABI (Anna Braune)	SuperBuildings (Tarja Hakkinen / Petr Hajek)
12:30-14:00	Lunch			
14:00-15:30	BREEAM (Martin Townsend)	SimaEasy / SimaPro (Marisa Vieira)	GABI (Anna Braune)	OPEN HOUSE (Natalie Eßig)
15:30-16:00	Coffee-break			
16:00-17:30	Plenary session (discussion) – Raymond Cole			
17:30-18:00	Conference Closing Ceremony			

Remember, iiSBE members can have a 20% registration fee discount to this conference.