

## Update on the SBE Conference Series

One of our principal activities has been to manage the SBE conference series, in partnership with CIB, UNEP-SBCI and FIDIC. Luis Braganca represents iiSBE in the partnership and NL provides general coordination for the series as a whole. The work has included the following tasks:

- NL is managing the process of soliciting and evaluating proposals for SBE16 national conferences and of subsequent coordination of these events;
- The schedule will be very full next year. Final discussions are being held with proponents from Turkey and Korea and these are expected to conclude before the end of October;
- iiSBE members will have discounts to all these events.
- We have established a website at <[www.sbe-series.org](http://www.sbe-series.org)> that serves as a home for the series and as an outlet for news about the specific events.

Locations	Dates	Themes
Dubai UAE	17-19 Jan 2016	Integrating Knowledge for a Greener Future
Torino, Italy	18-19 February 2016	Towards Post-Carbon Cities
Hamburg, Germany	Wkshps & conf. 8-10 March, PhD day 11th.	Responsible creation of built environment
Valletta< Malta	16-18 March 2016	Europe and the Mediterranean: Towards a Sustainable Built Env.
Dublin, Ireland	6-8 April 2016	Sustainable Fire Engineering
Utrecht, Netherlands	6-8 April 2016	From prototyping via demo projects to large-scale E-refurbishment & Net Zero
Zurich, Switzerland	Wkshps 13-14 June, Conf. 15-17 June 2016	Expanding Boundaries: Systems Thinking for the Built Environment
Prague, CZ	22-24 June 2016	Central Europe Towards SB
Manila, Philippines	13-15 July 2016	Sustainable Built Design
Singapore	6-7 September 2016	Translating R&D into demonstration
Vitória, Brazil	7-9 September 2016	Sustainable urban communities towards nearly zero impact built environment
Toronto, Canada	19-20 September 2016	Integrating Buildings and their Communities
Helsinki / Tallinn	5-7 October 2016	Build Green and Renovate Deep
Istanbul, Turkey	early October 2016	To be announced
Thessaloniki, Greece	16-19 October 2016	Sustainable Synergies from Buildings to the Urban Scale
Chongqing, China	04-07 November 2016	Low-carbon cities - buildings for people
Sydney, Australia	17-18 November 2016	Evidence-Based Design
Cairo, Egypt	29 Nov - 01 Dec. 2016	Integrate: gate to a sustainable future
Malmö, Sweden	30 Nov - 02 Dec. 2016	Nordic Summit
Seoul, Korea	2nd week of Dec. 2016	To be announced
Hong Kong	<b>June 5 - 7 2017</b>	Multi-faceted urban density


**SBE16 and WSBE17 conferences**

## Recent events involving iiSBE

### *July symposium on Sustainability and Bamboo in Hong Kong*

Nigel Howard represented iiSBE at the Hang Seng Management College Symposium on Sustainability and Bamboo on 19-20 July in Hong Kong. The audience was very diffuse spanning from high school students through Undergraduates, Academics, Green Building practitioners to UNESCO and Hong Kong Government Ministers. Nigel's presentation was on the subject "Is It Really Green" and reviewed whether Environmental Product Declaration and Ecolabels were rising above or simply contributing the tide of Greenwash around material and product assessment.

The presentation questioned the scientific rigour and reliability of our international standards and whether our government, academic and professional institutions were doing enough to protect the integrity of these assessments and declarations. Although recent Life Cycle Assessments of Australian flooring systems for the National Standards Development Organisation using the industry consensus BPLCI methodology revealed that Bamboo flooring was amongst the "Greenest" of alternatives for the Australian market, it would be hard for this assessment to distinguish itself to the market amongst the tidal wave of less credible "Green" claims. The presentation was well received and established a recurring theme within the event. Nigel explained the mission and objectives of iiSBE and extended an invitation to all to join.

### *The Euro-ELECS conference in Portugal*

The first Latin-American and European Conference on Sustainable Buildings and Communities (Euro-ELECS 2015) was held in Guimarães, Portugal, from the 21st to the 23rd of July 2015.

The conference was very successful and 215 papers were presented, of which 151 were orally presented and 64 as video-posters. Participants totaled 193, from 22 countries. Most of them were from Latin-America (104) and Europe (87), with massive participation of Brazilian researchers (93), as regular participants from previous events ELECS and Portuguese (62). Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Argentina, Mexico, Spain, Cyprus, Belgium, France, Serbia, Germany, Holland, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, UK, Czech Republic, Canada and Japan were also represented at the event. The Proceedings of event, containing all the 257 approved papers can be accessed at <http://civil.uminho.pt/Euro-ELECS-2015/pt/Proceedings.php>



## *CZEBS at Concordia in Montreal*

This Symposium took place at the **Concordia University Centre for Zero Energy Building Studies (CZEBS)** and consisted of two workshops (Aug. 20 and 21) with presentations and discussions on the latest progress on NZEB Best Practices, as well as enabling technologies. Participants included nearly 70 speakers and delegates from 16 countries, as well as 40 graduate students from CZEBS, SNEBRN, iiSBE and APEC. The workshop of August 20, focused on case studies, policy issues and an education session and included nearly 20 delegates funded by APEC. The workshop on August 21 focused mainly on enabling technologies for net-zero buildings and communities with participation of about 15 SNEBRN researchers, iiSBE and APEC delegates. The event was organized by CZEBS in collaboration with iiSBE and APEC and some support from SNEBRN (NSERC Smart Net-zero Energy Buildings Strategic Research Network) for student participation/training. Nearly 40 students of SNEBRN participated, as well as several key industry and government partners (about 10). iiSBE and APEC were co-organizers of the event. Several iiSBE members participated, including Luis Bragança (President, Portugal), Miguel Sattler (Brazil) and Ann Edminster (USA).



### Some highlights:

- Dr. Paul Torcellini discussed how to make net-zero buildings mainstream by presenting lessons learned from the new NREL facility in Colorado, reportedly the largest nearly-zero energy building in the world.
- Edward Mazria's plenary discussed the importance of moving the building stock to have net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 and presented a path to get there for new and existing buildings as well as the building components.
- Dr. Andreas Athienitis discussed key research achievements in SNEBRN, as well as a number of challenges that remain. He stressed that more work needs to be done to integrate solar technologies with energy efficiency, with the building architecture and the building envelope itself. This would need to make use of more intelligent building operation that employs predictive control, and that the focus would need to not only be on energy conservation, but also on peak load shifting and reduction.
- In the final plenary, Nils Larsson discussed his vision of how clusters of buildings with varied occupancies and configurations could work together to make substantial energy savings more achievable through the balancing of supply and demand of thermal energy, DHW, grey water, and DC power.

Eight panels took place during the two days that covered topics related to low-energy case studies and practices, policies, standards and incentives, education, net-zero communities, integrated solar and other recent technologies as enabling technologies and optimisation of building operations.

A report will shortly be available. Contact Bruno Lee at <bruno.lee@concordia.ca> to obtain a copy.

## *SB Conference in Santiago and seminar in Concepcion, Chile*

The *Cámara Chilena de la Construcción* (CDT) held a conference on Sustainable Construction during 24 to 26 August. Nils Larsson provided an overview of rating systems and the place of SBTool within the spectrum of systems.

## *Workshops, conference and an MOU in Kaoshiung and Pingtung, Taiwan*

Nils Larsson spent the week of 21 September in Kaoshiung and Pingtung, Taiwan, giving workshops and participating in a small conference, sponsored by Kaoshiung, ShuTe University and the Taiwan iiSBE chapter. The two cities are located in southern Taiwan, and iiSBE has a long relationship with ShuTe there. Main organizers and hosts for these events were Dr. Paul Chou, Dr. Daphne Chou and Dr. Annie Kuo. During the visit, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between iiSBE and the City of Pingtung for future cooperation in environmental policy development, and a meeting was held with Joseph Yen-yi Li, Secretary of TiiSBE.

Three long and intensive workshops were held with graduate and senior students focused on SBTool, exploring details of its structure and how a version for southern Taiwan could be developed. Several site visits were made to local wetland areas that serve as nature reserves and temporary reservoirs during periods of heavy rain, and a light rail system that is being developed to link the two cities and to reduce the very heavy automotive traffic intensity.

Finally, we made a site visit to a local solar farm that has been combined with agriculture in an interesting way by the Sunny Rich Power Company, with PV panels providing partial covering over an area planted with fruit trees, and a semi-transparent PV roof over a section devoted to vegetable production.



see <http://www.sunnyrichpower.com.tw>

## *Workshop at Ryerson University, Toronto*

Dr. Vera Straka, Associate Professor in the Department of Architectural Science at Ryerson University in Toronto, invited N. Larsson of iiSBE to conduct a 1/2 day workshop on rating tools in general and SBTool in particular, on 3 October. About 18 graduate and intermediate level students took part, and some of the students want to participate in the development of some sections of the SBTool system during the next few months.

## *Symposium at Carleton University, Ottawa*

On 9 October, a symposium took place at Carleton University to support the launch of an Ottawa-based consulting group that will focus on sustainable design and process issues, specifically including training in the Integrated Design Process (IDP). Participants from the iiSBE network included Woytek Kujawski, Gary Martin, Nils Larsson, Jamie Meil and Sonja Persram.

## Preparations for COP21 gearing up

As most members of our network are aware, the international Conference of the Parties (COP21) meetings will take place during the first half of December, and the results are likely to have substantial and lasting importance. There will be a Buildings Day at COP21 on 03 December. The impetus for this special day came from UNEP-SBCI and CSTB, with the participation of WGBC and some other civil society groups.

The specific activities planned for Buildings Day are still tentative, but they will take place both in the Blue Zone (limited to official delegates) and in the outer zones where civil society groups can participate. Video linkages may be established to improve the interaction between the two zones.

The World Green Building Council (WGBC) will play an active part at COP21 and have tentative plans to hold a meeting of several national GBCs there during the time of COP21. The partners who operate the Sustainable Built Environment (SBE) series of international conferences (CIB, iiSBE, UNEP-SBCI and FIDIC) may also participate in a Paris side event and will, at the minimum, provide a poster to announce the SBE16-17 series at COP21.

### *Preparatory activities in Jakarta*

One of the several regional events leading up to COP21 in Paris is a meeting of the Asia Pacific Urban Forum (APUF) in Jakarta during 19-21 October. A parallel session in this conference will be a session called Cities and Sustainable Frameworks: How to Measure Progress, This session is organized by UNEP-SBCI, UN-Habitat, ICLEI and Cities Alliance. iiSBE is providing some logistical support and an iiSBE representative will be present.

### *A survey of views on effective climate change mitigation and adaptation measures*

As part of its preparation for COP21, iiSBE has prepared a survey that asks respondents to identify measures or actions that are likely to be effective in reducing climate change impacts, and the degree of effectiveness. The purpose is to solicit views from our key members on the possible measures that could be implemented in their regions to reduce the impact of the built environment on climate change. Obviously this is a complex issue and we do not expect to identify quick or easy solutions, but we do think that it will be very useful to obtain ideas from our members who have a clear understanding of the situation and of possible measures that would be appropriate for their regions.

iiSBE has requested all its members to respond to this survey and to distribute it to local networks. Buildings Day at COP21 will take place on 03 December, which is not very far away. On the other hand, the survey requires only short and clear responses from pre-selected lists. If we receive your responses before 30 October we will be able to carry out an analysis and prepare a brief report before COP21. We welcome your further distribution of the survey to members of your regional or local networks. If the report turns out to be interesting we are likely to have opportunities next year to present and discuss the results at SBE16 conferences.

## Actions or Measures for iiSBE survey input file

1. Implementation of carbon cap-and-trade schemes.
2. Implementation of carbon taxes with sliding scale based on emissions
3. Implementation of carbon taxes with sliding scale based on emissions and redistribution scheme to end users
4. Implementation of property taxes that incentivize efficient urban development
5. Limitation of fuels and energy from high-carbon sources
6. Support for public procurement of low-carbon sources of energy
7. Support for urban and/or rooftop agriculture
8. Establishment of solar rights in zoning regulations.
9. Support for local procurement of energy and materials.
10. Establishment of solar rights in zoning regulations.
11. Development of local public transportation systems in small urban areas
12. Small urban area performance requirements for energy, emissions, water, local renewables etc.
13. Implementation of energy and emission retrofits in public, commercial and residential buildings
14. Adoption of green roofs and other measures to reduce heat island effect
15. Support for energy performance contracting including target values for emissions
16. Adoption of building regulations that include energy, emissions and water performance requirements.
17. Support for Environmental Product Declarations (EPD) for materials.
18. Implementation of building performance multi-variable rating systems adapted to location.
19. Implementation of whole-building high performance design guidelines adapted to location.
20. Adoption of Integrated Design Process (IDP) guidelines, adapted to location and building types
21. Establishment of public multi-variable performance datasets including data on embodied energy and operational energy and emissions.
22. Support for performance education programs for occupants and users of various building types.
23. Support for education programs focused on built environment sustainability issues, in secondary schools and university undergraduate programs.
24. Support for training programs focused on built environment sustainability issues for designers, builders and real estate professionals.
25. Support for high-performance demonstrations and pilot projects.

The survey can be obtained by contacting us at <[info@iisbe.org](mailto:info@iisbe.org)>.

For further information about membership or to contribute material, contact [info@iisbe.org](mailto:info@iisbe.org) or go to [www.iisbe.org/membership](http://www.iisbe.org/membership)

