

conference-workshop October 23, 24, 25, 2008

call for papers

organized by:

- grif
- CIB W92, CIB TG63, CIB W107
- i-Rec
- PMI-Montréal
- The Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal

venue: University of Montréal, Montréal, Québec, Canada

In the contemporary context of globalization, construction projects of all sorts are becoming more and more complex, involving truly international human and financial resources. The organizational design and the strategic procurement of these projects are increasingly complex yet the stakes are higher than ever before. This conference-workshop, organized jointly by grif and i-Rec, in association with CIB, The PMI-Montréal and The Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal investigates strategic procurement in the international construction context.

conference themes

The program is based on the following matrix:

Aspects:	Cultural and social Including risks and opportunities in the international context	Project initiation and planning Including contractual and financial aspects	Organisational and technical Including project management, project design and aspects of technology
Sector:			
Public: PPPs, infrastructure and community projects, public facilities, public competitions, institutional projects, etc.	A-1	A-2	A-3
Private: private competitions, housing, commercial and industrial projects, tourism, etc.	B-1	A-2	B-3
Humanitarian and development: humanitarian assistance, reconstruction, international development projects, cooperative projects, etc.	C-1	C-2	C-3

grif, CIB, i-Rec, PMI-Montréal and The Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal have a long tradition of organizing international conferences, which bring together researchers and practitioners from the fields of architecture, construction, project management, engineering, urban studies, international development and humanitarian aid.

about grif - The IF Research Group



grif studies the process-related aspects of the development of construction projects in general - and architectural projects in particular. This mission is achieved through four main activities: Research, Supervision and training in graduate studies, Consulting and Networking. The grif provides the scientific base for the programs in project management for the built environment (mgpa) of the Faculty of the Built Environment of Université de Montréal. The grif works in three main areas of research: (i) Initiation, planning and management of construction and architectural projects; (ii) Procurement and organizational design; and (iii) Housing and habitat (including post-disaster reconstruction)

about CIB - The International Council for research and innovation in building and construction



CIB was established in 1953 to stimulate and facilitate international cooperation and information exchange between governmental research institutes in the building sector, with an emphasis on those institutes engaged in technical fields of research. CIB has since developed into a world wide network of over 5000 experts from about 500 member organizations active in the research community, in industry or in education, who cooperate and exchange information in over 50 CIB Commissions including:

- CIB W92 is the working commission on procurement issues
- CIB W107 is the working commission on construction in developing countries
- CIB TG63 is the task group on disasters and the built environment

about i-Rec – Information and research for reconstruction



i-Rec is a web-based international network focused on the study of reconstruction after disasters. i-Rec deals with information exchange between its members in order to contribute with knowledge related to building activities in situations of crisis, particularly disasters in developing countries. Every two years, i-Rec organizes an international conference and an international students competition of architectural solutions for post-disaster situations.

i-Rec creates links between more than 200 specialists in the field of post-disaster reconstruction, particularly in the areas of: architecture, engineering and construction, humanitarian aid, international development and social sciences.

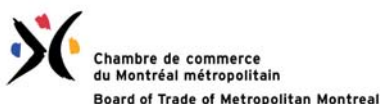
about PMI-Montréal - The Project Management Institute, Chapitre Montréal



PMI-Montréal is a chapter of the Project Management Institute (PMI). It brings together project management practitioners from Quebec who are members of PMI. Its mission:

- (i) Promote professionalism in project management and its recognition;
- (ii) Increase and disseminate project management knowledge;
- (iii) Establish forums for the exchange of information and training;
- (iv) Offer a slate of quality products to members and to the community;
- (v) Ensure a liaison with other organisations in project management and related fields;
- (vi) Increase regional and international visibility of local know-how

The Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal – Chambre de commerce du Montréal métropolitain



The Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal has some 7,000 members. Its primary mission is to represent the interests of the business community of Greater Montreal and to provide individuals, merchants, and local businesses of all sizes with a variety of specialized services to help them achieve their full potential in terms of innovation, productivity and competitiveness. The Board of Trade is Quebec's leading private economic development organization.

building abroad

procurement of construction and reconstruction projects in the international context



importance of the subject

The international context of construction shows different faces, ranging from prestige buildings designed by foreign “star” architects in world-class cities, to emergency shelters produced by humanitarian international initiatives in rural areas in developing countries. For many, this context offers great commercial opportunities, but also risks and threats. Participants from different countries working in foreign contexts are confronted with major challenges that range from cultural adaptation to contractual know-how. A careful understanding of organizational design and procurement is crucial in this context. The procurement strategies - that is, the initial decisions made by the client(s) to create the temporary multi-organization in charge of the project – can determine the success or failure of the initiatives.

This 2008 conference-workshop discusses these challenges and seeks to clarify the scope of and opportunities for construction projects in the international context. It focuses on the procurement-related aspects of international construction projects, and it opens the door to a wide range of subjects related to the performance of these initiatives.

example

About 200 houses were recently built in Netreg, a township located in Cape Town, a coastal city of the 2010 soccer world cup host: South Africa. At first glance there is nothing important about this project. However, it is managed by an Irish NGO and funded by a multinational construction company. It is promoted by a local community-based organization. Roof trusses for the houses come from Durban, the architect is German, the urban planner is Indian, the construction inspectors are Cuban, the project evaluator is Canadian.

But this is not a special project. An increasing number of design and construction companies now work in a highly competitive international market, joining in multi-national teams. More than ever before, North American architects are building projects in Europe, Asia and in developing countries. Well-known architects from Europe have important commissions in the United States and Canada. Most large-scale construction companies are looking at the attractive markets of emerging economies such as China, India, Chile, South Africa and Brazil.

issues to be addressed

The conference-workshop addresses the following issues:

- How to procure a building project abroad?
- How do architects participate in international construction?
- What are the main risks of international procurement? What are the main risks of working abroad?
- Is there such a thing as a real international supply chain?
- What are the differences between local procurement and international procurement?

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Photo: Lizarralde

- What are the main opportunities for construction companies interested in working abroad?
- How must the relations between foreign organizations and local actors be established?
- What are the opportunities for participation by international organizations in post-disaster reconstruction projects?

the conference is intended for both academics and practitioners in the fields of:

- Architecture,
- Project Management and construction management,
- Urban planning and regional studies,
- Engineering,
- Construction,
- Law (procurement and contractual arrangements for international construction),
- Humanitarian aid, reconstruction and international development,
- Public work and urban management.

format

The conference is organized around a series of moderated presentations supported by both academic research papers and case studies presented by practitioners. The conference includes:

- Keynote presentations,
- Moderated presentations for in-depth exchanges of experience,
- Panels for scientific discussion,
- Publication of proceedings.

If required, scholars and researchers can receive an academic invitation for applying for funding. The authors that attend the conference will have their articles published and will receive a certificate confirming their scientific contribution.

Rather than comprising individual formal presentations of papers (in the traditional format of academic conferences), the conference-workshop emphasizes thematic discussions moderated by specialists in the field. Nonetheless, researchers and practitioner-participants must submit papers for peer review and publication, describing in detail their research and/or experience. The papers are crucial to contribute to the discussions and will be included in the pre-event documentation. **The moderators will guarantee that the interventions are based on and supported by reliable facts and scientific research results.**



important dates

- An abstract of no more than 300 words should be submitted by: **30 January 2008**
- Papers will be selected for inclusion in the conference proceedings and authors will be notified by: **1 March 2008**
- Full manuscripts will be required by: **15 June 2008**
- Papers will be peer reviewed and authors notified by: **1 August 2008**
- Full manuscripts after corrections will be required by: **1 September 2008**

organizing committee and points of contact

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venue

The Conference will be held at the University of Montreal, Montreal, Québec, Canada.

fees

The three-day delegate rate is **\$ Can. 350 (€250) + taxes**; after June 30, 2008: **\$ Can. 420 (€300) + taxes**. The fee is inclusive of one lunch each day, coffee breaks, one conference dinner, and an electronic copy of the proceedings, which will be issued to delegates on arrival.

Students (providing evidence of formal registration at a University) and delegates from developing countries may attend at a three-day rate of **\$ Can. 140 (€100) + taxes**; after June 30, 2008: **\$ Can. 210 (€150) + taxes**.

abstract format

Participants wishing to present a contribution are invited to submit an abstract relating to the conference topics. The abstract should be typewritten in English using MS Word, using the template provided in the website. Abstracts submitted will be peer reviewed by the International Scientific Committee.

The abstract title should be short (preferably less than 10 words) and should be entered where indicated on the abstract template.