

# ARCOM

ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCHERS IN **CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT**

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Doctoral Workshop on  
BIM: Management and Interoperability  
Birmingham City University, 20 June 2013

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# Welcome from the Chair



To ARCOM members everywhere, and our 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference delegates in particular, welcome to this conference edition of the ARCOM Newsletter.

As I write this some 6 weeks before the conference itself, I am in a reflective mood. There is still much to organise for the conference itself – and as any organiser would be, I am still a little nervous, but hopefully by the time you read this, everything is going smoothly! – but I am reflecting on how much work has gone in to this conference already. The main point of our event is the academic content and while the conference itself lasts a little over 2 days, the time and effort that has gone in to preparing the proceedings, from literally hundreds of people, is staggering.

We pride ourselves at ARCOM on the academic quality of our proceedings but this doesn't come about simply or quickly: between November 2012 and February this year 350 abstracts were submitted with 308 unique first authors (plus many other co-authors). The 21 strong ARCOM committee reviewed these and invited 289 full papers with 164 submitted. The seventy strong full Scientific Committee then reviewed these, accepted 155 for final submission, which eventually resulted in 126 final accepted papers. My very rough (and probably conservative) estimate of the time taken in total to do all of this, from abstract preparation to typesetting and printing is approximately 2,450 hours. Add on top of that the operational organising and a rough indicator could be that for every (waking) hour of this conference that you enjoy, approximately 100 hours have gone in to its preparation... I hope its worth it.

The conference itself promises a range of stimulating enticements at Reading's Town Hall and also at the campus of University of Reading. We have some seven speakers providing keynotes and debates, we have 126 papers spread across thirty-three sessions; we have Monday night socialising and Tuesday night conference dinner.

ARCOM itself is enjoying a period of increased relevance and interest. An analysis after last year's conference showed that we have hosted delegates from nearly fifty separate countries since 2004. We now have 315 individual memberships and 16 institutional memberships. Apart from the conference we try to provide for these members with our Workshop series and ARCOM will soon move in to a new venture with invited international Seminars. Finally, ARCOM's success in recent years has meant we wish to redistribute some of our income. This has proved to be surprisingly difficult, at least to do so in a fair manner, but this year we have invited and paid for a delegate from Nigeria to attend and present their work (that was originally presented at the WABER conference) who would otherwise have been unable to attend. And ultimately this has to be one of the more satisfying aspects of the last 12 months of ARCOM, to attempt to support researchers from everywhere around the globe.

*Dr Simon Smith  
Edinburgh, UK*

## Editor letter....



Welcome to this issue of ARCOM Newsletter!

The ARCOM Newsletter represents a celebration of ARCOM activities and its people. This issue reflects just that!! It features three workshops/seminar on BIM, low-carbon and philosophy and research, which showcase the latest thinking and research initiatives. We also have an article from WABER, which has developed an international link with ARCOM over several activities. Two outlines of PhD research and one travel grant recipient are included. An update of membership and a tribute to Professor Will Hughes are also featured. I wish to thank all contributors in this issue!!

I would welcome any comments, and am awaiting for your contributions to the newsletter. Please get in touch, by sending e-mail to [R.Soetanto@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:R.Soetanto@lboro.ac.uk)!!

*Dr Robby Soetanto*

# Impact and Progress of WABER conference



The countries in West Africa are pushing for socio-economic development and the construction sector has a role to play in helping to realise these aspirations.

The West Africa Built Environment Research (WABER) Conference was initiated in November 2008. The original objective was to provide a vehicle for developing built environment research in West Africa through giving young researchers an outlet for developing their research work and skills through constructive face-to-face interaction with experienced international academics and their peers; and to supply a platform for networking and collaboration among more senior academics.

A team of academics comprising of Dr Samuel Laryea, Dr Roine Leiringer, Dr Chris Harty, Dr Emmanuel Essah, Dr Sena Agyepong, Prof George Ofori and Prof Will Hughes provided the initial academic leadership and infrastructure for nurturing and developing WABER. A new WABER Committee has been recently inaugurated to help develop WABER to the next level and establish it firmly as the primary conference in Africa for built environment research.

Since WABER's establishment in 2008, four international conferences have successfully organised, starting with the first one in Accra, Ghana (2-3 June, 2009) through to the recent one also in Accra, Ghana (12-14 August 2013). The WABER 2009 conference was the first event of its kind in the region. It brought people together in a stimulating research environment, and generated enthusiasm and encouragement for sustaining the initiative. The annual conferences have brought together more than 450 built environment academics, researchers and practitioners.

We currently have more than 50 institutions in the WABER network comprising mainly of universities and polytechnics in Africa. This network of institutions and people has enabled us to pursue a number of initiatives including the development of a new textbook on "Construction in West Africa" launched at

the WABER 2012 conference in Abuja, Nigeria. The annual conferences and direct interaction with researchers in built environment departments is helping to create a culture of research in the region.

It is part of our plans to pursue a number of targeted initiatives in the coming years to help develop the built environment field and construction sector in Africa to the next level. Fortunately, we receive financial support from some construction firms in the region to enable us pursue this vision. ARCOM has also made a financial contribution recently towards the development of WABER. Such support is essential for developing WABER and our next generation of built environment researchers. A good number of our leading construction management academics originate from West Africa. The current work of WABER is helping to lay a foundation and create opportunity for developing Africa's next generation of built environment researchers.

Through WABER, many young researchers have been helped to develop their research work and skills through face-to-face interaction with experienced international academics who provide constructive feedback on their work. The Mentorship Scheme recently initiated by ARCOM provides a channel for collaboration and means through which such interaction can be further developed.

The WABER conference has developed rapidly in the past four years and its story just goes to show what we can collectively achieve when we join forces and work together. WABER's impact and contribution to human development in Africa continues to grow through bringing together 150+ built environment researchers annually for the generation and exchange of knowledge, interaction and leadership on the key issues, challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.

Please visit our website for more information: [www.waberconference.com](http://www.waberconference.com)

*Dr Samuel Laryea  
University of the Witwatersrand*

*"...provide a vehicle for developing built environment research in West Africa...."*

## BIM: Management and Interoperability



This is the first workshop run by ARCOM on the subject of BIM. This is surprising given the impact that the government decree is having on construction practice and given the quantity of work on the subject of BIM by the construction research community. Maybe the technological

dominance of the subject has relegated the management issues to being only about the selection of the correct technology. Now that use of BIM is revealing real problems in practice, it is the time for ARCOM to engage fully in researching the development. The workshop did with 8 doctoral papers and a keynote and so establishing ARCOM position as the leading forum for research in the field. The workshop focussed on bridging the technical and managerial divide by addressing interoperability and management. ARCOM's strength is that it brings together diverse research positions and this again was the case at the workshop. Although all problematized the introduction of BIM this was not explored in the same way.

The audience had 25 participants that included industry representative and many academic staff. The keynote by Dr Richard Davis from Reading University set a challenge for the day around the difficulties of doing research in such a fluid field with multiple positions. Richard showed how evidence could be used to make inferences for effective practice and to use theory to challenge conventional views of outcomes. Vernikos et al. from Loughborough University considered the realities of how offsite construction can be better utilised by the use BIM by civil engineers. Bataw from the University of Manchester overviewed the development of BIM around the world to recommend good practice. Mayouf et al. from Birmingham City University explored the difficulties of how building performance could be represented in a BIM environment. Sackey et al. from Loughborough University used a



sociotechnical argument to demonstrate the difficulties of BIM adoption and indicated that a much more sophisticated analysis of the wider situation is required for success. Cidik et al. from Birmingham City University presented the information needs to undertake sustainability studies in a BIM environment where the conflicting factors were difficult to resolve at early design stage. Mahamadou et al. from the University of the West of England considered information exchange in the supply chain and identified the legal environment as a key enabler to reduce uncertainty in practice. Alaboud et al. from the University of Salford look at the opportunities for the use of mobile technologies to deliver BIM on healthcare projects but identified the need for strong protocols and processes to validate the data use. Hossain et al. from the University of Dundee concluded the workshop with a study of the way competing values can be better measured in order to manage the adoption of BIM from this it was suggested that a preferred culture could be determined that would enable true collaboration in the project delivery process.

The workshop is an example of ARCOM's mission to enhance research quality and to encourage early career researchers. It does this through such workshops in order to develop the research community not just academically but socially so that it is sustainable for the future. All the studies saw a need to integrate people and organisations with technology rather than let technology determine processes. Indeed it is the multi-attribute and multi-disciplinary aspects that need to be resolved to make BIM a successful development. This will be a continuing theme for ARCOM researchers which will be reported in future ARCOM conferences and workshops. The proceedings including all the papers are available on the ARCOM web site.

*Professor David Boyd  
Workshop Convenor  
Birmingham City University*



## *A personal reflection of the BIM Workshop*



**M**aria-Angeliki Zanni is a first year PhD student at the School of Civil and Building Engineering, Loughborough University, studying

the process of sustainable design within a BIM-enabled collaborative environment in the UK.

The subject "BIM Management and Interoperability" is directly suited to my interests; to integrate sustainability information and assessment into BIM processes. The ARCOM Doctoral Workshop presented a great opportunity to interact with other researchers with similar interests and gain from their experiences and understanding on the subject area. I was particularly pleased to meet the keynote speakers Professor David Boyd (Birmingham City University) and Dr Richard Davies (Reading University).

I mostly appreciated the stimulating discussion between experienced researchers, practitioners and doctoral students concerning the problems and possible solutions faced in the adoption of BIM by UK practices. I also enjoyed the frequent breaks, where I had the chance to exchange ideas about individual research projects.

The main essence that emerged from the workshop is that BIM is more than just using a tool, is about working within a system – a process. Management and interoperability are the two aspects of the same coin; they both need to be considered in order for BIM to be successfully implemented. It was stressed that BIM is the bigger step change which has occurred in the construction industry in the last thirty years; that results in the biggest challenge - the change in collaboration culture.

As a last word, I would like to say that the workshop exceeded my expectations and that I look forward in participating in similar events in the future.

## Supporting the Delivery of Zero Carbon Homes



**E**mma Heffernan is a PhD student in the Environmental Building Group at Plymouth University. Emma is a Chartered Architect, she completed her undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in Architecture at the University of Brighton and her Professional Practice examinations at Southbank University. She has over 10 years' experience of working in practice, first in London and later in Plymouth. In 2007 she returned to study part time for a Masters in Urban

Design at the University of the West of England. She graduated with a distinction in 2011 and was presented the RTPI South West Prize for best overall Urban Design Graduate.

Emma's PhD is supervised by Dr Wei Pan, now based at the University of Hong Kong, Dr Pieter de Wilde, Plymouth University and Dr Xi Liang, University of Exeter. The PhD has funding from the European Social Fund; it is supported by two industry partners; Cornwall Council and Cornwall Sustainable Building Trust. The aim of the research is to support the future delivery of zero carbon homes in Cornwall.

Emma delivered a paper at the ARCOM Conference in Edinburgh; she reflects here on her first experience of an academic conference:

*"I was delighted when my paper was accepted for the ARCOM conference, but slightly daunted by the thought of presenting to an academic audience. The paper presented the findings of my exploratory study; the purpose of which was to investigate why zero carbon homes are not currently being delivered in any quantity in the UK. A review of existing literature found that although a wide choice of voluntary standards for energy efficiency in buildings exists, take-up of these standards is slow and limited. This slow diffusion of innovation is attributed to the complex nature of the housing market; a socio-technical system in which decisions are based on a myriad of factors. One previous study which sought views of housebuilders explored the drivers and barriers for zero carbon homebuilding, but no studies of perceptions of the wider housing sector existed.*

*Phase 1 of the exploratory study, upon which the paper is based, comprised a series of 12 semi-structured interviews. Since writing the paper, the study has been extended with a further 14 interviews, these are on-going with the aim of ensuring the various interviewee categories are fairly represented. The exploratory study found that a lack of clarity in the definition of zero carbon is acting as a barrier; further issues identified were around skills and knowledge and the nature and culture of the housebuilding industry.*

*I thoroughly enjoyed my time at the conference; ARCOM is a very welcoming organisation for new researchers. I found the feedback on my work very valuable and came away from the conference with inspiration for the direction of my future research, the focus of which is still under consideration, and looking forward to hopefully having a paper accepted for next year's conference in Reading."*

Emma would welcome any questions about or suggestions for her research: [emma.heffernan@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:emma.heffernan@plymouth.ac.uk)

# Philosophy and Research

In 2012, ARCOM held its first academic seminar, on philosophy and research, at Nottingham Trent University (NTU). We were pleased to see a room full of keen participants to explore the challenges construction offers for in-depth and philosophically informed research. Six stimulus-presentations guided our discussion around culture, time, philosophy of research in general, and critical realism and Actor-Network Theory (ANT) more specifically, before concluding thoughts on different levels of theory and application regarding practice and organisational processes.

We invited participants to engage in vigorous debate and develop their own intellectual challenge. Our call for contributions set out to open a dialogue:

*“Philosophy explores and tries to explain the fundamental way we think about the world; this includes how we know things and what we can know. It also considers the basis of the way that we act in the world, including making decisions in it. Thus, philosophy is not some distant abstract activity but one that is undertaken everyday both in practice and academia when we explore our assumptions and methods. Although for many academics this is most evident in discussions of ‘methodology’, construction management researchers are challenging the notions of practice, its management and improvement to an extent that a serious discussion of the philosophy of this is long overdue. We are fundamentally concerned about the way we problematize the world and in doing so theorise and act in inadequately reflective ways.*

*Construction is a rich source of complex philosophical problems; in particular it is fundamentally ‘grounded’. As researchers in the field we are always being challenged as to whether our thinking bears any relationship to the physical world. This thinking and action is mediated by a rich social and organisational world; that defines it, values it and is sustained by it. Construction activities have been undertaken over millennia and indeed can be seen as a characteristic of*



*human existence; making them so connected with our social being that construction is difficult to isolate.*

*A latent interest in Philosophy and Research in construction management is often expressed in discussions that take place outside formal conference sessions... This seminar is a natural development of its work and also the growing maturity of research in its domain.*

*This seminar is an opening of an extended dialogue, most importantly not just with researchers in construction management, but embracing people from the surrounding pure and applied disciplines. The aim is to see the philosophical landscape around the discipline and to initiate the clarification of thinking.”*

At the event, after a welcome from Harry Barton, Director of Research at Nottingham Business School, Andrew Knight from the School of Architecture Design and the Built Environment at NTU opened the presentations with questions about Aristotle and culture: If/ when/ as Aristotle only works within cultures, what might ‘it’ look like within construction... where ‘it’ may refer to for example good practice or health and safety. Furthermore, what are the problems at industry level due to differences in and between organisational cultures?

This was followed by discussion about the philosophical method and the implicit consistency within construction management (CM) research: much of CM work is practical/ pragmatic. Philosophy was considered to offer a useful insight here, as philosophy clarifies thought processes. Open conversation, involving seminar participants, proceeded to also contemplate a process view of ethics and Foucault, before Paul Chan led us to think about time.

Paul Chan, from the School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering, The University of Manchester, had studied time with regards to a decision; a commitment to act now, and in the future; and on the

*Continue next page...*

basis of the past, which is ever-growing. Hence, causality of time was one of the central questions. However, importantly, Paul considered time being relative to our experience (and mood), e.g. whether we are on holiday or travelling for business, although the concept is most often expressed in numerical terms. Equally, it became clear that time is relative to our point of view re: the position we hold, be that job role, managerial or operational, and how long a job may take. Bergson... being... to becoming (organisations)... and Thomas Mann provided the philosophical based for Paul's work and broader discussion on the sense of time re: time-frames and subjectivity. Examples about sharing time in dancing and playing music and then on a construction site illustrated the potential for application – a senior manager may be looking at/ planning 15 years ahead and hence the next 2-3 months may not matter to them so much, whereas for others this shorter-term time is crucially important.

Moving towards discussion of philosophy of research and methodology, Ahmet Tolga, from Izmir University of Economics, Turkey, developed an evaluation of the field. This was built up from a reference to Burrell and Morgan (1979) to re-visiting the debate in construction management and economics in the mid-90s to contemporary reference material, such as Dainty (2008). Core of the argument focused on lack of reflexivity in CM (after Dainty, 2008) and questions around 'is knowledge created or discovered or a matter of taste' (after Nietzsche). The seminar audience usefully questioned how to access the world of philosophy of research (particularly from practitioner background).

Alistair Mutch then explored critical realism. Key to his contribution was the fact that it [critical realism] is interested in mechanisms, which may be 'virtual' (e.g. jealousy) or material. It is not empirism, but often involves doing empirical work to investigate the mechanisms. Interest is in social construction, hence critical realism is sometimes called weak social constructionism, the "under labourer" ... It establishes hierarchical order: philosophy, social theory,

organisation theory; after Margaret Archer. Time, structure, action; and the relationship between structure and interaction... structural elaboration... materiality (and its tension with the social)... were all closely related to the previous discussions/ presentations on airport management and health and safety and common sense. Recommended reading put forward: Andrew Sayer (1992) method in social science: a realist approach.

Dan Sage, from Loughborough University, begun exploring how 'material' influences our social activity and the nature of 'actors', before visiting the Skye Bridge Project to illustrate use of a particular ANT by Callon (1986) going through its four stages. Reference to 'ANT and after' book was suggested as useful future engagement with the idea and criticisms regarding future of ANT.

This set of presentations was followed by detailed and fruitful discussion about the strengths and weaknesses of ANT and critical realism. The ontological claims/ position of ANT was questioned together with the value base for both ANT (is value free? or perhaps Foucault/ Bourdieu?) and critical realism (Marx). In addition, Latour suggested as fun read.

To bring the day to conclusion, Martin Sexton, from University of Reading, responded to our challenge of combining his planned presentation with a plenary of all that was discussed before beautifully. He considered practice and processes, together with different levels of theory – grand, middle range and idiosyncratic – and stabilising-standardising or challenging (by un-stabilising), and mobilised ANT or 'socio-technical theory' clearly and explicitly via a case study.

We are keen to take this initial energy forward and have planned to co-ordinate a journal special issue together with a follow up workshop sometime in the future. Watch this space (and cnbr)!

*Dr Ani Raiden – Nottingham Trent University  
Professor David Boyd – Birmingham City University*

## *Future Doctoral Workshops*

Financial Management of Construction Organisations and Projects

16<sup>th</sup> October 2013

Liverpool John Moores University

Interactive Workshop: Defending Your PhD

6<sup>th</sup> February 2014

University of Salford (Date to be confirmed)

# Transition Pathways to a Low-Carbon Built Environment

The final workshop for the ARCOM Low Carbon and Sustainability series was hosted by the CIOB's Innovation and Research panel.

On possibly one of the most pleasant days of year, the doors at CIOB's home in Ascot were opened allowing the delegates to experience the beautiful gardens and historic grandeur of Englemere under clear skies. The reason for improving sustainability and reducing CO2 emissions could have easily been overlooked. Indeed, why change what we are doing if such great days still greet us? However, the backdrop to the day was a summer of extreme rainfall and varied weather. Could this seasonal disturbance be an indication of a more changeable climate to come, could it be much worse? Some issues associated with the topic may be debatable, but that the climate is changing as a response to human activities and a resource intensive built environment is no longer questioned.

Dealing with the responsibility that has been placed upon the industry, the CIOB's Innovation and Research Panel brought those with influence, expertise and opinion together to address the transition to a low carbon built environment.

The workshop, was opened by CIOB's Chief Executive Chris Blythe with the presentations addressing some of the most pressing issues facing industry.

Focusing on the supply chain, Professor Jacqui Glass provided examples of responsible material sourcing at the same time identifying how the industry might move towards greater legitimacy and sustainability. Ted Chandler of the NHBC foundation advocated the importance of the end user in the zero carbon agenda and stressed the need for greater user consideration. Ted suggested that if the sector is to properly address its legal commitment to greater energy efficiency and lower carbon it must get the user on board. Peter Caplehorn of Scott Brownrigg

provided exemplar low carbon building designs discussing the regulatory incentives and some of the practical constraints that the industry and clients face.

Professor Chris Gorse surmised current research on building performance exploring the deviation between that expected and that delivered. Emphasis was placed on the considerable gap with some projects and noted the relatively low number of buildings that were close to their targeted performance.



*Professor Chris Gorse presenting*

Dr Libby Schweber took an overview on user behaviour and information gained from building users surveys. The importance of occupant behaviour and further research in this area being stressed again. Shaun McCarthy, Director of the Action Sustainability and Chair of the Commission for a Sustainable London took stock of the lessons learned from the games, the achievements and the on-going legacy. Few can doubt the impact of the games, and while there were gaps in sustainable practice, the commission were clearly pleased with the what had been achieved.

The joint CIOB and ARCOM event, chaired by Professor Stuart Green, demonstrated the strength that the group has and its ability to bring together some of the most influential people in within this field.

*Professor Chris Gorse  
Leeds Metropolitan University*



*Professor Jacqui Glass presenting*



*Delegates during coffee break*

## STOP PRESS: Call for Proposals to run 'The ARCOM Seminar'

**B**uilding on the success of the ARCOM workshops, we are pleased to announce a new funding initiative, The ARCOM Seminar. The ARCOM Seminar is seen as a way to diversify existing provision of the ARCOM research/doctoral workshops and to raise the quality of the intellectual debate in the field of construction management research. The ARCOM Seminar should be distinctive from the established ARCOM research/doctoral workshops. To this end, the aim of the ARCOM Seminar is to sustain high-quality intellectual debates that would push the frontiers of knowledge in construction management research. The main objectives are:

- 1) To attract and engage leading scholars from the social science disciplines and fields of organisational and management studies who have an interest in, and can add value to, the field of construction management research;
- 2) To bring together a range of researchers (from early-career to established Professors) to actively discuss and debate on cutting-edge thinking and to provoke fresh agendas for construction management research, and;
- 3) To stimulate the production of scholarly outputs such as special journal issues and edited books.

If you are interested in hosting The ARCOM Seminar, you will need to complete an application form (which you can access via [www.arcom.ac.uk](http://www.arcom.ac.uk)) and email the completed form to [info@arcom.ac.uk](mailto:info@arcom.ac.uk). It is important that you take note of a number of key principles of running the ARCOM Seminar. Participation in an ARCOM Seminar should be by invitation only. This does not preclude an open call, but prospective participants have to demonstrate the potential to actively contribute to the seminar discussion. Selection is typically made on the basis of an email application, with prospective participants stating their area of expertise, how their research interests and current work connect with the seminar theme, and what they hope to get out of the seminar.

Unlike the ARCOM research/doctoral workshop

where presenters have to prepare a six-page article for inclusion in a set of workshop proceedings, presenters at the ARCOM Seminar need not produce a full paper. Presenters may choose to produce an outline of their thoughts in a range of formats for the seminar (e.g. an extended abstract, a full paper, presentation slides, poster etc.), but the emphasis is on producing a coherent set of outputs after the seminar. Thus, the ARCOM Seminar should be viewed as a vehicle for stimulating further collaborative work (e.g. joint publications, special issue/edited book, research network etc.) after the event. **However, any output that is subsequently produced as a consequence of discussions at an ARCOM Seminar must acknowledge the financial support provided by ARCOM.** As the ARCOM Seminar is designed to encourage active participation of attendees, it is desirable to maintain a lower number of participants (i.e. maximum of around 20 participants). There is no fixed format for the ARCOM Seminar. A seminar can take place over a day or a residential weekend depending on interest and number of participants. A seminar can also be stand-alone or part of a coherent series.

Approval for the running of an ARCOM Seminar will be sanctioned by the ARCOM Seminar Working Group, based on (a) the contemporary nature of the proposal, **and** (b) its theoretical **and** provocative content. Proposers should also identify possible contributors, both within and outside of the construction management research community. Leading international scholars should also be invited where appropriate. Proposers should also work with the ARCOM Seminar Working Group member(s), who will play an active role in the organisation of the approved seminar. Finally, proposers should indicate intended outputs that can be developed after the seminar. In return for support of an ARCOM Seminar, proposers (who would normally be, but not restricted to, ARCOM members) must provide a summary/record of the event(s) for publication on the ARCOM website and/or newsletter. Please email [info@arcom.ac.uk](mailto:info@arcom.ac.uk) for informal queries about the ARCOM Seminar.

## Inclusive Design Policy Implementation within the Built Environment by Local Authorities in England



*Tangi Rebekka Amakali  
The University of  
Reading*

The research investigates the understanding and influence of inclusive design policy amongst English Local Authority employees during the design process assessment. Recent national statistics showing an increase in adult disability particularly amongst the ageing population has prompted the need for research within the built environment to ensure buildings are accessible by the wider population and to eliminate disability discrimination in the built environment. The preliminary findings of this study indicate that within local Authorities there exists a lack of policy influence due to a range of issues including, a limited understanding of the issues, a lack of clear policy and a weak enforcement and monitoring strategy which leads to a superficial “ticking the box exercise” when assessing designs. Since Local Authorities are the main bodies responsible for approving any developments built in their local communities and are also responsible for implementing local and national policy the study has focused on the role of Local Authorities’ in an attempt to examine their understanding of inclusive design using a theory of knowledge management.

The study is currently in progress, and will further focus on the use of tacit and explicit knowledge to advance the policy implementers understanding of policy in order to advance inclusive design policy implementation in practice. This may lead to exploring the opportunities and threats to achieving a coherent and effective national policy for an inclusive environment.

## ARCOM Travel Grant Recipient



*Ahmet Anil Sezer  
Chalmers University of  
Technology*

I and a colleague arrived in Edinburgh two days before the annual conference 2012 began which gave us plenty of time to enjoy seeing Holyrood Palace and tasting the local fudge. That was my first time in UK, in Edinburgh and in an annual ARCOM conference. It was a great experience to meet all the researchers working on construction management, who I only knew through their publications.

I worked on a project called “Productivity and sustainable refurbishment” in Chalmers University of Technology for a year. First year of my project consisted of literature studies, on both sustainability and productivity aspects of office and housing refurbishment projects. Therefore my paper for the conference was “Environmental assessment tools and efficiency in housing and office refurbishment”. Existing environmental assessment tools do not satisfy our needs in refurbishment projects! I went through the literature on fundamentals of sustainability, sustainable refurbishment and environmental assessment tools to provide a framework.

At the presentation, the audience appeared to be encouraging. I stressed that the paper was a developing one and I needed advice. In the end I had an extra slide where I compared the very recent assessment tool, BREEAM Refurbishment Domestic Buildings. I got several constructive comments: split your paper according to residential and office buildings, study productivity more in detail, and consider stakeholders more carefully. Everyone was friendly and they seemed to appreciate the comparison with a new tool that most of them were unaware of. Thank you all for a great opportunity!

# ARCOM Membership 2013

Membership Secretary Dr Shu-Ling Lu provides an update:



ARCOM now has 317 individual members and 16 institutional members!

The numbers of individual members and institutional members are very healthy and on an upward trajectory. Table 1 shows that the number of individual members increased rapidly from 88 in 2010 to 317 this year. Similarly, Table 2 shows that the number of institutional members has increased from 14 in 2011 to 16 this year.

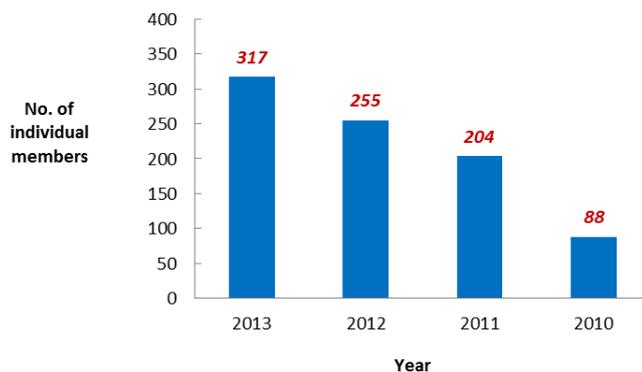


Table 1 Number of individual members between 2010 and 2013

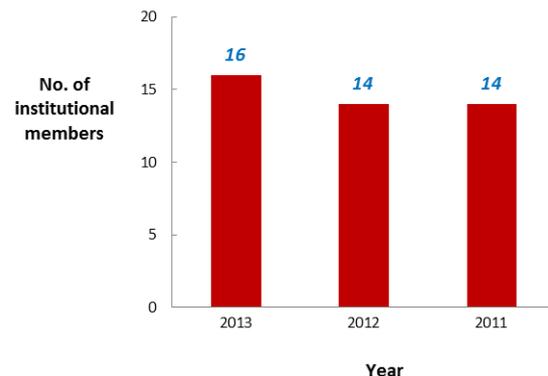


Table 2 Number of institutional members between 2011 and 2013

The geographic breakdown of the individual membership from 2012 to 2013 is shown in Table 3.

- Over 90% of the members originate from the Europe (42% in 2013 compared to 41% in 2012), Sub-Saharan Africa (26% in 2013 compared to 29% in 2012) and Asia Pacific (23% in 2013 compared to 22% in 2012).
- In Europe the majority of the members come from the UK (71% in 2013 compared to 76% in 2012), followed by Ireland (no change of 10%).
- In Sub-Saharan Africa region, the majority of the members originate from Nigeria (63% in 2013 compared to 62% in 2012), followed by Ghana (23% in 2013 compared to 16% in 2012).
- In the Asia Pacific region the membership is more equally distributed between four countries: India (26% in 2013 compared to 23% in 2012), Malaysia (19% in 2013 compared to 14% in 2012), Sri Lanka (13% in 2013 compared to 19% in 2012) and Australia (9% in 2013 compared to 12% in 2012).

ARCOM currently has 16 institutional members:

- 14 institutions from the UK - Birmingham City University, Edinburgh Napier University, Glasgow Caledonian University, Leeds Metropolitan University, Liverpool John Moores University, Loughborough University, Northumbria University, University of Brighton, University of Manchester, University of Reading, University of Salford, University of Wolverhampton, University of the West of England (**new**) and University of Central Lancashire (**new**)
- 2 institutions from Sweden - Chalmers University of Technology and Luleå University of Technology

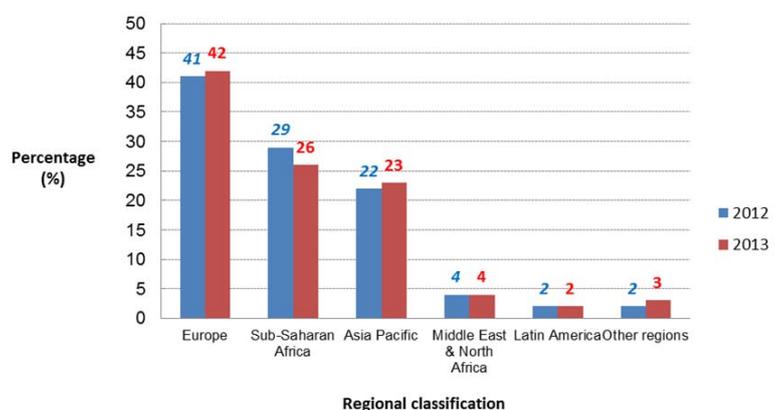


Table 3 Geographic breakdown of the individual membership from 2012 to 2013

## Professor Will Hughes



As I took over as chair of ARCOM at the Annual General Meeting in Edinburgh last September, it was a shame that just 6 hours later, at the Conference Dinner, I had to mark the leaving from the committee of one of our longest serving members. Committee members come and go and this is natural but they don't normally serve for over 20 years.

Professor Will Hughes, Chair of Construction Management and Economics at University of Reading, Editor-in-chief of Construction Management and Economics, our field's premier academic journal, motorcycle enthusiast and trumpet player is known to pretty much all of us - he is difficult to ignore. He is visible to the extent that occasionally I'm sure we have all wished, at times, that he would just go away.

But its only when people like Will do go away that we realise what we miss. I was very frustrated when he let me know that he was leaving as I've got to know Will very well in the last few years. His advice - which he has always been willing and quick to provide - has never been anything other than on the mark, very useful, and helpful to me during a period when I have been learning the ropes as both conference and now ARCOM chair.

Will was chair of ARCOM from 1998 to 2000 and organised and hosted the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference at University of Reading. While our return to Reading in 2013 is no coincidence - Will suggested the venue and has offered his help and assistance in the conference's organisation spite of him no longer being a committee member - the fact that Reading in 1998 was my first ARCOM involvement is. I can't comment on his ARCOM activities prior to 1998, but since then his activity has been energetic & strenuous, in all facets of ARCOM life but principally in promoting and managing the ARCOM abstracts, held on the website. His ability to cut to the chase and filter out the 'nonsense' at committee meetings is already noticeably absent.

While he has now left the committee I am relieved that he has put on record that he will remain a "friend" of ARCOM. We have not entirely got rid of him yet.

*Dr Simon Smith  
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