

UK Green Building Council is launched

We learned from Dr. David Strong, Managing Director of the Building Research Establishment (BRE), that the long-awaited UK GBC has now been formally launched. The organization, which is an industry led, independent, not-for-profit, membership based organization, is aiming at "dramatically improving the sustainability of the built environment within the next ten years."

Thirty-six of the most influential companies in the sector have signed up as Founding Members of the Council. They include: British Land, Lend Lease, Hanson, HBOS, Aggregate Industries, Land Securities Group, Sir Robert McAlpine, Willmott Dixon Construction and Jones Lang LaSalle.

The UK GBC aims to grow its membership by encouraging SMEs across the supply chain to sign up, and the Council is currently developing a roadmap with clear targets on how to achieve a step change in sustainability across the entire built environment, including urban planning, carbon emissions, waste and water

The UK GBC will use BREEAM as its principal tool for performance assessment.

You can visit the UK GBC website at www.ukgbc.org or call the secretariat on 0845 362 322

Update on SB07 and SB08 conferences

Readers will recall that previous SB conferences (Maastricht in 2000, Oslo in 2002, the regional events in 2004 and Tokyo in 2005) all featured, to varying degrees, building performance assessments from around the world, in the form of displays and presentations. The process has been called *Green Building Challenge* (GBC) since its inception and has been directed by iiSBE.

The GBC process originally focused on assessments carried out with the GBTool assessment tool developed by iiSBE. The industry has moved on, and for the 2007 / 2008 period, the process is now called the *Sustainable Building Challenge* (SBC), and the assessment tool has been renamed SBTool, to better reflect the inclusion of social and economic issues.

A global request for case study assessment proposals will shortly be issued. The RFP will be open to assessment teams anywhere, using any type of broad-scope assessment tool, but performance results will be presented in a common format to maximize comparability. The case study assessments are all aimed towards the Melbourne SB08 conference in September, 2008, although some SB07 events will be displaying preliminary information on the process and case study buildings.

For more information, contact *Nils Larsson*, Executive Director,
International Initiative for a Sustainable Built Environment (iiSBE) email: larsson@iisbe.org

Links to SB07 events can be found at <http://www.sb07.org>

Cooperation agreement with WGBC

We are happy to announce that the cooperation agreement between iiSBE and the *World Green Building Council* (WGBC) is now in force. The process began about three years ago when a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) started shuttling back and forth between the two organizations. Main points include respect for each others main functional areas (research and information for iiSBE, rating and market transformation for WGBC), development of specific areas of cooperation, and attempting to maximize cooperation in countries where both organizations are active.