

CIB Commission Recognition for two valued members of W078

During this year's W078 conference held in Cairo, Egypt in mid-November, the working group was proud to announce that two of its longest serving members had been recognised by CIB. With over two decades of service apiece it was hard to squeeze their significant contributions into a three line acknowledgement on the certificate, so here we provide a little more background to their work within W078. It was also a sad moment within the working group as we farewell the two members, one to a consultancy business following his retirement from academia and the other to new research fields outside of Construction IT.

Prof. Per Christiansson, Aalborg University, Denmark

In 1983 a group of 16 international researchers met with the CIB to establish the terms of reference for W078. Per was one of those founding members and has been an active force within W078 ever since. He was one of just 12 presenters at the first conference in 1984 and he, and his many research students and colleagues, have presented papers at almost every W078 conference since then. Per did not just attend the W078 conferences, he was active in guiding the direction of W078 as one of its board members from what was then a commission on 'Integrated Computer-Aided Design' to its current broader focus on 'IT for Construction'. Over his time in W078 Per has twice stepped up to chair W078 conferences. The first, in Lund, Sweden in 1988, attracted 91 participants from 16 countries to hear 32 papers. The second time was in Århus, Denmark in 2002, where 62 papers were presented to participants from 19 countries. As befits a commission focused on IT, W078 has investigated the use of emerging IT for its own purposes. W078 members recognised the potential impact of the Internet early on, and Per established a website for the commission during the Internet's formative years, an information resource that he has maintained for W078 ever since. This site documents the history of W078 with information on conferences held, participants at the conferences, board members, minutes of board meetings, and the all-important next conference.

Per is retiring from his position at Aalborg University at the start of 2011 and aiming for an active retirement with his consultancy firm and engineering bureau (see <http://www.christiansson.biz/>). W078 wishes him great success in this commercial venture, and his guidance and support will be sorely missed within the commission.

Prof. Bo-Christer Björk, Hanken School of Economics, Finland

Bo-Christer first presented at a W078 conference in 1986 and has been a regular attendee ever since. His initial research work was in the field of building product modeling as an enabler for information exchange in projects, foundation research work that has been highly cited in this community. He later became interested in electronic publishing on the Internet and open access models for publications. Bo-Christer founded the ITcon journal (Journal of Information Technology in Construction) in 1995 (<http://www.itcon.org/>), one of the very first electronic journals, and a ground breaking approach to publishing in this field. The journal is fully open access and since 2005 CIB has been the official publisher

of the journal. Bo-Christer has been Editor-in-Chief for ITcon since its founding and has evolved the journal over the years to maintain a successful and highly regarded model for electronic publishing. ITcon has had a profound influence on the publishing approach of W078 members over the last decade and is now seen as one of the primary journals for researchers in this domain. Unfortunately for W078, this research area has become Bo-Christer's passion and he has slowly moved out of the IT for Construction domain and established himself very successfully within the scientific communication domain.

Bo-Christer chaired a W078 conference in Stockholm, Sweden in 1998, which had 44 paper presentations and a memorable sauna experience. Bo-Christer has also had significant influence in the W078 community as a board member and by supporting work items which have seen all of W078's conference papers made available electronically. W078 wishes Bo-Christer continued success in his new research area, and we will miss his sage advice within our community.