



University of Salford

A Greater Manchester University

School of Construction & Property Management

Access to Excellence

the Leader

Issue 60 April 2006

New Director of the Research Institute for the Built and Human Environment appointed

Professor Mustafa Alshawi has been appointed as the Director of the Research Institute for the Built and Human Environment (BuHu).

Commenting, Professor Alshawi said: "It is a pleasure to be the new Director of the 6 Star Built and Human Environment Research Institute. I have been an active research member of BuHu since it was established and was heavily involved in setting up its early research strategy and management activities. BuHu's excellent national and international reputation has been achieved over time through its high quality research, various networks of excellence, leadership of international committees, and research centres. My vision is that BuHu should be at the forefront of innovative and multidisciplinary research and should have the necessary infrastructure to enable it to achieve even higher objectives and to thrive at the national and international levels. I am committed to continue building on our great success and to leading and shaping the research agenda in the Built Environment.



Members and Associate Members are BuHu's main asset. Members who are actively involved in research need to continue to have a healthy research environment to effectively carry out their high quality work while the necessary mentoring and support should be given to those with high research potentials to enable them to realise their potential. These activities are essential for improving our high retainable staff number for the next RAE and therefore have to be an important part of BuHu's overall vision and strategy. I aim to work with and encourage members especially those who have high aspirations and to provide support in achieving them.

There will be an extremely difficult and challenging time ahead of us. By working together, we can create critical masses of researchers who will not only help BuHu to stay in the lead but can turn our Research Institute into an influential research body nationally and internationally. With pride, passion and commitment, we can successfully meet our future challenges."

CONTENTS

Page 2

- Business Development and Marketing news
- Another success – Co Spaces
- IRW 2006

Page 3

- Collaborative arrangements being forged with Taiwan
- EURASIA and Tsunami relief efforts in Sri Lanka

Page 4

- SCRI news

Page 5

- CEBE news
- CCI news

Page 6

- Construct IT news
- The Think Lab

- Battlefield Detectives programme on air
- Let us share learning!

Page 7

- SCPM graduate awarded "Young Achiever of the Year"
- News in brief
- Forthcoming events

Business Development and Marketing News

"Spring has arrived bringing with it new shoots and an opportunity to deal with old wood!"

This month we will formally remove MSc programmes in Lean Construction, Construction Procurement, Corporate Management for the Built Environment and European Real Estate. Meanwhile we are investigating ideas for an MSc in Construction Law. We have formally proposed several new programmes for the year ahead namely MSc Quantity Surveying (FT & DL), MSc Quantity Surveying (Mechanical & Electrical) (DL), MSc Project Management in Construction (FT) and MSc Real Estate Development (FT). If approved these new programmes will significantly strengthen our portfolio and should prove highly marketable both at home and overseas.

Speaking of overseas, in February, I visited some 24 institutions in South East Asia which included Universities, Colleges and Ministries. My visit coincided with political unrest and large demonstrations in Thailand and a cabinet reshuffle in Malaysia in which the main casualty was the minister for higher education! Despite this and more seriously, there are good grounds to believe that these visits can provide the seed corn to grow and develop both links and new students. One immediate outcome is that in mid June the Malaysian Research Group has confirmed it will hold its annual conference here on Salford campus and we expect several very significant dignitaries to attend – more details will be published soon.

The school's latest statistics on programme enquiries show that we are significantly ahead of last year for the same month, up by about 25% across all categories of programme and showing a significant lead also when compared to the national average for the subject area. This is a very encouraging outcome for all our efforts so thanks to everyone.

Brian Meichen



At Thammasat University, Thailand



With MARA Funding Body, KL, Malaysia



At TAR College, KL, Malaysia



At UCS College, Kuching, Malaysia

School liaison news update

This year we have seen the number of organised construction taster days doubled from last year's figure. In addition to holding events for the colleges who have visited us before, we were delighted to welcome some new visitors such as Wirral Metropolitan College and Blackburn College. We have also strengthened the relationship with CITB, by continually supporting their National Construction Week and gaining their assistance in our taster day activities. We have established links with Rochdale and Manchester Aimhigher for the first time this year. A couple of visits to local schools and colleges were also undertaken as part of the school liaison plan. In all we saw some 350 students.

Julia Cannon

Another success - Co Spaces

Working together with a number of key European partners, Professor Terrence Fernando, Director of the Future Workspaces Research Centre in BuHu has been successful in securing a multi-million Euro (12MEuro) EU research contract under Framework 6. The project known as CoSpaces is aimed at developing organisational models and distributed technologies which support innovative collaborative workspaces for aerospace, automotive and construction sectors. This landmark project extends over 3.5 years and the value to Salford is 1.3M euros.

Commenting, Terrence said: "This is a real opportunity to develop and strengthen international collaboration in this important field. The availability of the Salford's new Think Lab will certainly help us significantly in the work and will give us the opportunity to further raise our profile nationally and internationally." For further details of the project, please contact Prof Fernando on t.fernando@salford.ac.uk or +44 (0) 161 295 2914

Brian Meichen

IRW 2006

The third 'International Research Week' was held in Delft, Netherlands in April. It was a close collaboration between the Research Institute for the Built and Human Environment (BuHu), the Salford Centre for Research and Innovation (SCRI), and Delft University of Technology and TNO, at Delft University, Netherlands. Dr Mike Kagioglou, Manager of SCRI, said: "The 3rd International Research Week has been the most successful yet with more than 300 delegates attending the three events - 3rd International SCRI Symposium, SCRI Industry day and the 6th Postgraduate Research Conference. The University, SCPM, SCRI and BuHu showcased innovative research and our Memorandum of Understanding with Delft has been strengthened through this effective collaboration. This demonstrates that the innovative approach we have adopted creates high impact internationally, which is fitting to a 6* Institution."

Collaborative arrangements being forged with Taiwan

An invitation by the Chinese Institute of Engineers for a group from our School to visit Taiwan has resulted in a number of exciting collaborative arrangements being forged, along with an agenda for future joint activities. Three Memoranda of Understanding for future collaboration were signed between ourselves and the National Taiwan University of Science and Technology, the National Kaohsiung University of Applied Sciences, and the Chinese Institute of Engineers.

Professor Peter Brandon and Doctors Shu-Ling Lu and Martin Sexton travelled to Taiwan in November 2005, and delivered keynotes, conducted seminars and engaged in exploratory discussions for future collaboration and funding opportunities. These activities took place with:

- the major universities of the National Taiwan University of Science and Technology, the National Kaohsiung University of Applied Sciences, the National Central University; and,
- the government policy and professional institution bodies of the Taiwan Construction Research Institute, the Chinese Institute of Engineers, the Department of International Programs, the Taiwan National Science Council, the



Dr Martin Sexton, Associate Head of Research and Mr Jin Yuan Chen, President of the Chinese Institute of Engineers signing the Memorandum of Understanding in Taiwan

Kaohsiung City Government and the Ministry of Education Advisory Office.

Future activities are already planned including an international workshop in late 2006 on virtual prototyping and an international conference on sustainable construction in 2007 being jointly organised between the Chinese Institute of Engineers, Taiwan Construction Research Institute and the University of Salford. Discussions are in progress for the joint organisation of the international conference in 2007 to possibly include the CIB and the American Society of Civil Engineers.

For further information, please contact Dr Shu-Ling Lu at s.l.lu@salford.ac.uk

EURASIA and Tsunami Relief Efforts in Sri Lanka

On a recent trip to Sri Lanka, Dr Richard Haigh and Dr Dilanthi Amaratunga visited two universities – the University of Moratuwa and the University of Ruhuna – as the Delegation of the European Commission to Sri Lanka. The visit was undertaken as part of a major International Research Project called EURASIA (EUROpean and ASIAN Infrastructure Advantage). The project is led by Salford and involves partner institutions in Estonia, Lithuania and Sri Lanka. The EURASIA project – chaired by Professor Peter Brandon – aims to enhance the capacity of the partner institutions for training, teaching and research activities required for the creation and long-term management of public and commercial facilities and infrastructure. In doing so, the project will support the ongoing recovery programmes set up following the Indian Ocean Tsunami of December 2004. Overall, the Tsunami affected two thirds of the coastline of Sri Lanka. It resulted in the destruction of more than 100,000 houses and the discontinuance of several livelihoods such as fishing, farming, tourism and handicrafts-related activities. The post-Tsunami rehabilitation operation has been affected by weak local government institutions with poor response capacities to address the needs of such a magnitude. This is mainly because, before the Tsunami, Sri Lanka was known to be a safe haven where natural disasters scarcely occurred except for occasional floods and landslides during the rainy seasons.

EURASIA is funded through the EU's Asia Link Programme, dedicated to fostering regional and multilateral networking between Higher Education institutions in the EU and Asia. As part of the project, a Virtual Environment for Built Environment Researchers (VEBER) has been set up which provides a broad range of functionality that will facilitate research activities among the partner institutions. The Salford team, in collaboration with its Sri Lankan partners, is now working towards setting up a web portal to share information on the post-tsunami response, with specific reference to case material in Sri Lanka. This work will be linked with other disaster management initiatives undertaken by the Salford team, such as activities associated with the recently established CIB Task Group 63: Disaster Management and the Built Environment.



Dr Amaratunga (first on left) and Dr Haigh (third from left) along with the Project Coordinators from each of the partner institutions in the EURASIA project inaugural meeting in Sri Lanka



Dr Haigh giving a project presentation at the University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka

SCRI awarded HaCIRIC project

A New Health and Care Infrastructures Research and Innovation Research Centre (HaCIRIC) has recently been awarded a grant by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) for a collaborative programme which includes the Salford's Centre for Research and Innovation (SCRI). Funded at a value of £7.23M (total value including university and industrial contributions in excess of £11M) under the Innovative Manufacturing Research Centre (IMRC) this is a collaborative programme between the IMRCs at the Universities of Salford, Imperial (lead), Loughborough and Reading. The Centre has been established to create a unique source of skills and knowledge to inform the development of policy and practice for the provision of strategically critical healthcare facilities and infrastructure for the next twenty years. The grant comes at a time of profound change in the UK's health and social care services, with unprecedented investment to renew its built and technical infrastructure. Tens of billions of pounds are being spent building new hospitals and other facilities, as well as on new IT systems and medical technologies. Technological and scientific advances, new policies and care practices, and rising patient expectations all mean that the infrastructure planned today may not be suitable in twenty years' time. Ensuring the investment in infrastructure is right for the emerging forms of care delivery requires careful planning and innovative approaches, but this has proved a major challenge for policy makers and the care services.

HaCIRIC is being created to tackle these challenges.

Dr Mike Kagioglou, Director of HaCIRIC for Salford and Manager of the Salford IMRC said: "This is a truly unique opportunity to bring together the expertise of four of the leading built environment IMRCs in the UK, to holistically address the issues related to infrastructure development for effective health and care delivery. We aim to strengthen our position in the region and internationally, working closely with the local PCTs (Primary Care Trusts), LIFTCos (Local Improvement Finance Trusts), secondary and tertiary healthcare providers and communities to improve well being and quality of life. Coupled with the launch of the MSc in Built Environment for Healthcare in the new academic term we are looking forward to being at the forefront of developments in this area drawing from the University's expertise in this area."

HaCIRIC's research programme will include major new research projects designed to improve the way in which healthcare buildings are planned, designed, procured and delivered, and research on the likely impact of innovative new approaches to this for the NHS and social care system. The research programme has been developed in

partnership with the key stakeholders from the care system, including the Department of Health, the NHS, the Department of Trade and Industry and the supply industries. Professor Ghassan Aouad, Head of School for Construction and Property Management, Director of the Salford IMRC (Salford Centre for Research and Innovation in the Built and Human Environment - SCRI) and co-Director of HaCIRIC for Salford said "This is another example of the opportunities present in sector-based research and innovation and how holistic approaches necessitate collaborative initiatives both at a national and international level and, within the university, across schools and faculties." The Centre will start in June 2006 and will last for five years, in the first instance.

For further information please contact Dr Kagioglou on +44 (0) 161 295 3855 or m.kagioglou@salford.ac.uk



salford centre for research & innovation
in the built & human environment

an EPSRC funded centre

Agility put to the test

At least that's what the Association for Project Management (APM) wrote in their magazine, Network, on reporting on Salford's first public foray into agile project management. Fortunately, they assessed that we passed!

Professor Lauri Koskela heads up a team within SCRI which researches lean and agile production and project management.

Whilst his team focuses particularly on theory development, the proof of any theory ideally lies in its application. Lauri therefore decided to have Salford join the APM as a Corporate Member in order to gain access to the UK's pre-eminent group of professional project managers. The University joins around 300 other Corporate members and 13,500 individual members primarily in the UK. Lauri's group has forged close links with the APM through the involvement of Bob Owen on the APM North West Branch Committee.

The first SCRI/ APM event was held in the Old Fire Station in mid-January and was attended by 50 senior project managers and University staff. Rachel Davies, a Director of the Agile Alliance, presented on the most widely used agile management methodology: Scrum. Bob Owen, a mature PhD Student gave a summation of the evolution of, and logic for, agile thinking and project management; this was very well received by the project managers present. A follow-on event will be held on the 6th June as one of the regular SCRI Forum events. Tom Taylor, APM Chairman will attend and take delegates through the new APM Body of Knowledge. SCRI/APM are also working at getting a speaker from an extremely exciting automobile manufacturer!

For the longer term, the APM has a Higher Education Institute Initiative which has started a process of course and HEI accreditation. Eventually the APM hopes to achieve formal Chartered status, with all that means for professional development.

For further information, email: r.l.owen@pgr.salford.ac.uk

CEBE News



Successful Bid to Higher Education Academy for Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Community of Practice

Congratulations to Aled Williams and Veronica Jones from CEBE who have successfully bid to the Higher Education Academy to develop a pilot programme to foster and sustain a focus upon enterprise and entrepreneurship within the Academy. By evaluating existing activities and using School, University and external links to build a community of practice this pilot will eventually be utilised as a test-bed for the Academy on how best to deal with HE and key partners at a regional level.

Further information on the project can be obtained from Aled Williams (a.w.williams@salford.ac.uk) or Veronica Jones (v.c.jones@salford.ac.uk)

Inaugural Twilight Seminar of the CEBE Scottish Node on Engagement, Enterprise and Employability

An interactive seminar for built environment education and practice took place at RICS Edinburgh, on 2nd February 2006, being the first in a series of scheduled events that CEBE is rolling out to address specific regional needs. Several objectives were addressed, including promoting the activities of the CEBE Scottish node (Construction & Real Estate), launching the Built Environment Education Process (BEEP) research group and providing an industry wide networking opportunity in relation to integrating the construction education supply chain.

Key note addresses were given by Professor Mel Lees (CEBE), Alistair Robertson (HEA's Senior Advisor to Scotland), Graeme Millar CBE, (Chair of Scottish Construction Forum) and Richard Thorpe (Director of Mace). A future event on KTP awareness is planned for May 2006.

Pam Lowe



CCI News

CCI become a licensed EcoHome assessor organisation

CCI are delighted to announce that they are now able to carry out BREEAM assessments for houses under the EcoHomes banner after becoming a licensed assessor organisation. BREEAM (BRE Environmental Assessment Method) is the world's most widely used means of reviewing and improving the environmental performance of buildings. Since its launch in 1990 BREEAM has been increasingly accepted by the UK construction and property sectors as offering best practice in environmental design and management.

Liverpool Land Development and Blackpool Borough Council adopt CCI KPI Engine

The CCI KPI Engine is currently being implemented for Blackpool Borough Council for both build and civils projects. It is also being adopted by Liverpool Land Development Company (LLDC) for their regeneration work.

The CCI KPI Engine is being used to allow the project teams to benchmark their performance against the National DTI data, as well as support the management of continuous improvement in their framework agreements. The CCI KPI team is supporting the design and implementation of these systems with both Blackpool and LLDC to help the delivery of their projects in the long-term, as well as demonstrating their commitment to the change agenda and national procurement policy, such as the National Procurement Strategy.

CCI Sign Up for the Climate Change Charter

CCI are delighted to have been one of the organisations that signed up for the Climate Change Charter for the Northwest at the Northwest Climate Change Summit 2006. The conference saw more than 100 representatives from across the region join forces to consider the best ways of reducing the impact of global warming in the Northwest.

The Climate Change Charter is a major initiative, spearheaded by Lord Thomas of Macclesfield CBE and Sustainability Northwest, to get Northwest organisations to commit to tackle climate change.

CCI named in the top 3 ICT grant assisted projects in the last 5 years by the North West Regional Assembly

3D visualization is the science of creating three dimensional models of localities, buildings or objects to allow a better understanding of the impact of design changes. This sort of visualization is very cost effective but can require a large initial capital outlay and learning investment to take advantage of its potential. Up to now this has meant that it has largely been the preserve of the larger companies and the region's small and medium enterprises were significantly disadvantaged.

CCI set out to address this problem by creating a Visualisation Unit which works with SMEs to promote their understanding of the technology and the business potential offered by interactive 3D modeling.

The CCI 3D Visualisation project identified and developed a number of networks of local businesses that might benefit from the technology. A workshop format was then developed to enable SMEs that had both technical and non-technical experience to familiarize themselves with these 3D technologies.

By working with SMEs in groups and demonstrating practically how the technology can be applied to a series of different scenarios the team are able to demystify the technology and excite the SMEs about its potential.

For further details of any of the CCI news items, please visit www.ccinw.com

Roy Stewart
5

Construct IT news

Construct I.T.

For Business
enabling process change

Improving CAD Productivity Short Event

Construct IT ran a short event in February on *Improving CAD Productivity* at the University to further promote continuous improvement for CAD productivity. The event, which was initiated by a benchmarking study undertaken with a select number of organisations, is aimed at management teams who are responsible for improving efficiency and best practice processes. It has been designed to maximise potential from CAD investments within organisations and to create awareness of the effective use of CAD within industry. The event was well received and attended by industry representatives from such organisations as Robinson Architects, Whitbybird, and WSP Management. Construct IT re-ran the event in London at the RIBA on 5th April and are planning to run the event in the Autumn in Leeds.

Jason Underwood

Battlefield Detectives programme on air

Back in July 2005, we reported that SCPM and other university staff had worked together to produce a virtual reality model of the farm at Hougoumont which was critical to Wellington's defeat of Napoleon's Grand Armée. Wellington's men successfully held the farm throughout the day of the battle, thus helping to defeat Napoleon. The virtual reality model attempts to help historians shed light on how it was done.

The BBC programme *Battlefield Detectives* programme was aired on the History Channel on April 7th. It is a great achievement for the team involved. Congratulations to Andy Hamilton, Sarah Ricketts, and Yusuf Arayici once again!



The Think Lab

The Think Lab (Director Professor Peter Brandon) is now completed. It aims to provide state of the art facilities in a futuristic environment which will enable researchers from across the University to engage in research that harnesses Information and Communication Technologies to provide new solutions to current and future challenges faced by industry, commerce and the community.

It will form part of the network for various centres around the University adopting similar technologies in specific applied areas and will be linked to other similar laboratories across the globe.

At the heart of the Think Lab lies the debating chamber. Within the chamber are 30 ergonomically designed workstations with transparent lecterns for note taking or laptop computers, and a state-of-the-art lighting system and the

very latest high technology equipment. The chamber possesses a WiFi network and is wired for virtual reality operations and video conferencing so that images can be broadcast around the world in real time to support virtual conferencing between distributed teams. Motion activated video cameras track users around the room and allow them to interact with stereoscopic virtual images on a large back projected powerwall.

Carla Cole, Facilities Coordinator for the Think Lab, said: "We will be inviting staff and businesses to come and see the facilities for themselves at our official launch planned for the end of May." In the meantime, if you are interested in visiting the Lab, Carla can be contacted at +44 (0)161 295 6579 or c.cole@salford.ac.uk.



Let us share learning!

'The Standardisation of e-learning in construction' is an EPSRC funded project, launched in April 2004 by Dr Vian Ahmed. The project aims to develop an on-line repository of Multimedia Learning Objects that are standardized in order to be shared and transported to different learning management systems such as Blackboard, and via mobile devices any time, anywhere. With a team of two researchers (Azmath Shaik and Raju Pathmeswaran), the project has entered its final phase, with another year to go for disseminating the project outcomes. The unique features of the repository allows for the integration of intelligent and dynamic objects using semantic web concepts, metadata standards and ontology for construction education. This has opened up wider opportunities for research in this field. A demonstration of the research outcomes will be held during the SCPM Teaching and Learning week in July 2006.

Dr Vian Ahmed



Access to Excellence

SCPM graduate awarded "Young Achiever of the Year"



Chim Lungu, a graduate of SCPM, recently picked up the title of Young Achiever of the Year at the inaugural QS Awards ceremony. Chim came from Malawi to study at the School eight years ago. She achieved a first class degree in Quantity Surveying and immediately started her employment with Turner & Townsend, Manchester Office. She is also studying part-time on a Masters Research degree with the School. Her company praised her highly for her impressive professional skills and said that "she proved an inspiration to younger colleagues in her championing of APC and the profession in general".

The judges said: "Chim has come the farthest in every possible way. We particularly admired her ambition and drive to succeed at everything she does. Her entry included some impressive testimonials and she was a great role model for those aspiring to enter the profession."

In the same QS awards competition, **Adam Tarling**, Castles Shopfitters, was also shortlisted. He is also a SCPM graduate.

News in brief *Julia Cannon*

Professor Mel Lees interviewed by "Construction Manager"

When a Construction Manager Magazine reporter came to look at the recruitment shortage of construction managers for the Olympics 2012 in London, Prof Lees was among the experts across the country to be interviewed for their opinions. Together, Professors Lees and Ashworth, conducted a research on this topic, and they reported that a shortage of graduates was sending recruitment costs through the roof.

Prof Lees also pointed out that the idea that we could do something about the Olympics in a short space of time was flawed.

Shenzhen government delegation visit from China

A delegation of 16 visitors came from Shenzhen, P.R. China and visited the School in November 2005. They are local government officials who are in charge of facilities management in the city. Prof Ghassan Aouad, Brian Meichen, Dr Tim Harvard, and Julia Cannon received the delegation on behalf of the School. Presentations about the School and its courses were given to the delegation.

Forthcoming events

Educational liaison events

Manchester Aimhigher Construction Project Event
26th April 2006
Peel Campus

South Trafford College What next 4 you careers event
2nd May 2006
South Trafford College

For further details of the above events, please contact Julia Cannon at j.cannon@salford.ac.uk

SCPM open days

4th May 2006
1st June 2006

For further details of the above open days, please contact Irene McNeil at i.i.mcneil@salford.ac.uk

Graduation week

18th July 2006

Construct IT Spring 2006 Members' Meeting

The Construct IT Spring 2006 Members' Meeting will be held on the 24th and 25th May at Conference 21, Sheffield Hallam University.

Contact Michelle Linnane at m.linnane@salford.ac.uk or call +44 (0)161 295 2910 for registration/further details.

Editor: Julia Cannon

School of Construction & Property Management, The University of Salford, Salford, Greater Manchester, M5 4WT

Tel: +44 (0) 161 295 4229

Email: j.cannon@salford.ac.uk

Web: www.scpm.salford.ac.uk