

Summary Report on Conference Attendance

31st Annual Conference
Australasian Universities Building Educators Association (AUBEA)
University of Technology, Sydney, Australia. 11th-14th July, 2006

"Building in Value"

AUBEA conference lived up to its name as a gathering of building educators and other built industry professionals. It was well attended with participants not limited to Australasia but other parts of the world.

Papers presented covered contemporary construction management, building education and professional practice issues. The papers were grouped into three; Teaching and Learning, Industry and Research, and with a day each dedicated for these major groupings. Not less than 80 papers were presented including 2 keynote papers from invited scholars and 9 papers at different plenary sessions.

There were three workshops/forums within the conference programme to discuss:

- (a) The Bologna Process, its implications and impacts on building programmes.
- (b) The teaching of Construction Technology and
- (c) Issues concerning students pursuing research programmes.

The wide range of issues presented and discussed show the vastness of the building profession and the need for dynamism in the education and training of the next generation of building graduates. For example, the paper presented by James Rotimi at the conference on *Achieving Reconstruction Objectives within Appropriate Regulatory Frameworks* was an interesting variation from main stream building research.

Finally the message coming out from AUBEA is the need to enhance the value of building education through innovations derived from collaborative inputs of Government, Industry and the Academia. This would facilitate greater understanding and a common sense of purpose for improving training needs and research.