Sustainable and Energy Efficient Building Practice
Date: Tuesday 24th May, 2011
Time: 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Venue: Bldg.14, Lvl.12, Conference room

Facilitator
Dr Ifte Ahmed – Climate Change Adaptation Program

Attendies
Prof. Irena Cosic, R & I, SEH office
Prof Margaret Jollands, SCECE
Prof Aliakbar Akbarzadeh – SAMME
Assoc Prof Sujeeva Setunge – SCECE
Dr Kevin Zhang - SCECE
Dr Saman De Silva – SCECE
Dr David Law – SCECE
Dr Sarah Hickmott – SCS&IT
Dr. Indubhushan Patnaikuni - SCECE
Dr. Flora Dylis Salim - SIAL
Ms Edwina Goh - R & I, SEH office
Mr Alan Pears - DSC
Ms Vidu Udaya - SCECE
Ms Pushpitha Kalutara – SCECE

Apologies
Dr Steve Gower – R & I
Dr Anne Sibbel - SAS
Dr Elaine Saunders – SEH office
Dr Abhijit Date – SAMME
Mr Bahman Shabani – SAMME
Assoc Prof Lina Shahwan-Akl – SHS
Dr Caroline Northwood, R & I, SEH office
Dr Esther Charlesworth
Prof Ralph Horne – Centre for Design

Program

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 – 9:35</td>
<td>Welcome &amp; Introduction to College Research Strength Groups</td>
<td>Prof Irena Cosic</td>
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<td>9:35 – 9:45</td>
<td>Participants to introduce themselves</td>
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<td>9:45 – 10:00</td>
<td>Overview of research area &amp; expectations for the workshop</td>
<td>Dr Ifte Ahmed</td>
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<td>10:00 - 10:30</td>
<td>Presentations from key RMIT researchers (10 mins):</td>
<td>Dr Kevin Zhang - Sustainable Management of Buildings, Mr Alan Pears - Sustainability Innovation in Buildings, Prof Aliakbar Akbarzadeh - RMIT Energy CARE group</td>
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<td>10:30 – 10:50</td>
<td>Morning tea break</td>
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<td>10:50 – 11:20</td>
<td>Briefing re: breakout groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:20 – 11:30</td>
<td>Break out groups</td>
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<td>12:00 – 1:00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>12:00 – 12:30</td>
<td>Group report back &amp; sum up</td>
<td>Dr Ifte Ahmed</td>
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<td>1:00</td>
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Summary of Discussions

A complete set of presentations made at the workshop has been stored by the SEH research office. The following points highlight the key issues discussed at the group discussions, which could be a basis for future research directions and workshops in the field of sustainable and energy efficient building practice.

- Need to look at similar service tools for highly serviced emergency services.
- Interest in tools used to calculate energy usage – how does energy saving data measure up? Are the tools being used accurate? How are the tools used over the long term? Monitoring exercises is one area, but are the tools mostly accurate?
- Looking at energy savings, are they linked to human comfort?
- Data measured indicates that is there a gap between demand to comply and actual measurement. Are there gaps in the market?
- Need to look into collaboration with projects already up and running and collection of building cases for energy analysis.
- What about typology and energy efficiency - is it appropriate in Australian context re housing types and designs?
- Typology-based validation of tools is an area of potential research.
- Smart materials is also another such area.
- Developing a system which would accurately evaluate energy savings is necessary.
- Building cladding aspects is important with regards to energy efficiency.
- Typologies eg pitched roof adapted to rainy climate. Are they appropriate in Australia?
- Need to explore designs that combine open and sealed areas within a building.
- Possible research topic - Typology and Adaptation.
- Melbourne climate becoming like Brisbane in the future. Project underway looking at housing type in Melbourne - looking at locations and the differences between Melbourne and Brisbane in line with future climate change projections.
- Statistics from current urban design approaches indicates trends towards medium density – not looking at living with higher urban density.
- Local case study on very high density vs. high rise vs. the quarter acre; densification. High rise vs quarter acre not a solution, which lies somewhere in between.
- Joint publications are an important way of moving forward and establishing connections and relationship with within the university. Joint publications are also useful in showing an established working history across disciplines when applying for grants.
- Group to organise workshops to lead the way; there are number of leaders within the group that could be matched together.
- Draw on students whose topics are linked/related to projects.
- Channel larger number of staff and students into one focused group to be more competitive in getting funds.
- Collaborative research with industry partners - linking industry to connect to the real estate sector.
- ARC linkage – must show established commitment and history of working together.
- Purpose of such workshops is to focus on what the group is doing and getting involved to be stronger with connections across the board.
- Working on smaller projects together is a good way of testing and establishing a history.
- The Design institute runs workshops that could be useful.
- Key goal – work across school boundaries.
- Piloting exercise could be conducted later down the track – full day with outside industry involved.
- Need to identify the funding agencies/bodies.
- Proposed next meeting to be held in approximately 6 months’ time at the Bundoora East Campus. Workshop with visitors i.e. key stakeholders from industry as a way of attracting more participants to the group.
- Additional funds from the College are not available, but the College may be able to assist by sending out official invitations from the PVC to external guests if they are supplied with the names and contact details. Support from the College for catering maybe a possibility.
Project Carbon Bus UK, green building household energy analysis and carbon costs can be plus or minus from between 30 - 70%.

Formulate Project, publish explore industry support and maybe go for critical mass in the area.

With papers it is easier to get industry interested and then go for grants – possible linkage grants.

Explore possible projects involving students looking at mini workshops find 2, 3 or 4 projects.

Start with discussion sub-groups, continue meeting, formulate projects, get first contact for discussion group to lead in getting together and continuing workshops – already started with focus group leaders bringing groups together.

Misconception - need money to start research. Staff are already paid 20% time to do research suggests that larger staff numbers and students can be channelled into large focus groups – to get funds are we utilising time 100%.

How do we cooperate with each other do we know what our neighbours in the school do? And do they know what their neighbours in other schools are doing? Are there possible links across the University that can be combined in a focused way? Will we get stronger with combined work?

Would be helpful to get School of Property, Construction and Project Management on board; they have offered a venue and done a lot of work in this area; invite developers and builders to come to RMIT and will provide a venue and catering to seek good commitment from industry.

Opportunity to work together on small projects can be easy wins which helps all.

Group members and their industry contacts can be invited to future workshop.

Start with smaller projects - show case with industry.

Already some staff members are collaborating on bringing people together and knowing what each other does.

Summaries of papers can be circulated asking if anyone wants to join for co-writing?

Main purpose today is getting people together and talking about possibilities.

Google docs: Vidu to upload documents and send instruction to all how to use google docs.

The idea of this pilot exercise is to get a group together leading to bigger work later. Also to try and identify the funding agencies access.

Need to bring existing projects together.

Possible workshop and invited visitors / key stakeholders – to inspire others to join the group.

In approximately 6 months' time another meeting possibly at Bundoora – members to choose the time and place. Build up the tour site at Bundoora East to create interest for others to come and spend a full day at this site. There is the option of a Video link with Bundoora.

The College may be able to organise official invitations from the PVC office & send university wide invitations if required.