



WEBINAR: The Future of the Construction Sector post COVID 19

Monday 29th June 2020, 13:00 – 14:30 GMT

The debate has begun whether an industry that represents up to 13% of global GDP will succumb to a period of accelerated change when the COVID-19 pandemic recedes. A sector that has arguably been slow to respond to digital or productivity improvement initiatives will potentially be the vehicle for governments to drive economic stimulus. Will the sector be able to deliver the high social and economic expectations of policy makers and governments? Should any such public investments come with conditionality around, for example carbon or social value performance? Will the clients, designers, contractors and their supply chains be in any fit state to respond to these calls as “lockdown” measures are slowly lifted?

Even before a post-lockdown re-start, plans are afoot for the revival of national construction sectors worldwide. This will play out differently given local conditions, but this webinar is designed to make a small contribution to stimulate and facilitate international cooperation and information exchange, in these unprecedented times. That it is organised under the auspices of the CIB, established to facilitate such co-operation in 1953, is appropriate.

Already there are many different models emerging to help plan the post-COVID 19 construction sector, but for the purposes of this webinar we are accepting a simple phase model of – Restart (increase output, maximise employment and minimise disruption); Reset: drive demand, increase productivity, strengthen capability in the supply chain; and Reinvent: transform the industry, deliver better value, collaboration and partnership.

CIB had planned for traditional face-to-face conferences in Copenhagen for June this year. At such conferences it is usual to receive keynotes or to assemble panels from industry or policy-making, to go along with the academic submissions. This webinar is offered in lieu of that kind of event. There will be a presentation from the USA sharing the latest CDC (Center for Disease Control) guidance for construction workers including healthy business operations. In addition, from the UK a member of the UK Government’s Construction Leadership Council, will present the newly published roadmap to recovery for construction in the UK. The panel is completed by CIB academic members speaking to the situations from a Hong Kong/ China and South Africa perspectives.

Who should attend?

The webinar is intended to contribute to a wider CIB response to the COVID-19 crisis – drawing upon a range of Working Groups. CIB members, practitioners, policy makers and academics are all encouraged to attend.

Webinar Outcomes?

- The webinar will be recorded and shared on-line.
- Ideas generated will be captured and shared through CIB.
- Practitioners and policy makers will be listened to and their real research needs captured for the CIB community.

To Register

Register your attendance via [Eventbrite: The Future of the Construction Sector Post COVID 19](#)

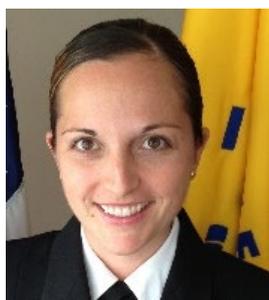
The Panel



The Chair:
Prof Peter McDermott

The webinar will be chaired by Peter McDermott, Professor of Construction Procurement at the University of Salford, UK. Peter is Joint Co-ordinator for CIB W92 Procurement Systems. Peter is close to practice and policy-making through a range of roles such as – Board Member, Constructing Excellence UK, and active in current major procurement exercises and board management of framework agreements.

Profile: [Prof Peter McDermott](#), University of Salford, UK



First Panellist:
Elizabeth Garza

Elizabeth Garza will be speaking on COVID-19 and the U.S. Construction workforce and sharing the latest U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance for construction workers including healthy business operations. She will speak to the latest science on COVID-19 as far as symptoms, transmission, and how workers can stay protected through the hierarchy of controls. She will also speak to how the U.S. Construction Sector has come together through the National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) through the new COVID-19 Workgroup and the NIOSH National Construction Center COVID-19 Clearinghouse.

Profile: [Elizabeth Garza](#), Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (NIOSH), USA



Second Panellist:
Prof Steve Rowlinson

Professor Steve Rowlinson will be speaking on the COVID-19 and the Hong Kong construction industry. Steve is Joint Co-ordinator for CIB W92 Procurement Systems. With construction output expected to contract by 9.2% in 2020 due to political unrest and COVID 19, he will consider how under-pressure to close sites, contractors successfully demonstrated how the management of social distancing was quite possible on most sites. With strong epidemical controls output remained high. He will also, look to the near future and consider the implications of COVID-19 for the shape and operation of the Hong Kong construction sector.

Profile: [Prof Steve Rowlinson](#), University of Honk Kong



Third Panellist:
Ann Bentley

Ann Bentley considers the roadmap to recovery for construction in the UK and asks the question - are we at a cross-roads for construction (or is it another Cul-de-sac)? She will outline the Restart, Reset, and Reinvent model, consider the medium-term themes for recovery – including - demand and pipeline, productivity, and professionalism, and longer term reinvention through, digital and manufacturing transformation, value based procurement models and whole life performance, and partnerships and integrated delivery models.

Profile: [Ann Bentley](#), Global Director, Rider Levett Bucknall, UK Construction Leadership Council



Fourth Panellist:
Asc Prof Abimbola Windapo

Associate Professor Abimbola Windapo considers the question of how to map a sustainable future for the construction sector post COVID-19 in South Africa. She will describe the economic and social significance of the South African Construction Industry and consider the range of challenges encountered in planning for COVID 19 recovery including the conservative approaches to construction procurement, and the state of construction businesses.

Profile: [Prof Abimbola Windapo](#), University of Cape Town, South Africa