

Notes on the Hamburg SBE16 Conference

The following notes are intended to provide a brief overview and highlights of the Hamburg SBE16 conference on sustainable built environment, which was held in Hamburg during 7 to 11 March, 2016.

An overview of the SBE series

The Hamburg conference was one of 20 national conferences planned for 2016 as part of the SBE sustainable conference series. The series is operated by four international organizations, the International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction (CIB, www.cibworld.nl), International Initiative for a Sustainable Built Environment (iiSBE, www.iisbe.org), Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-SBCI, Sustainable Building and Climate Initiative, www.unep.org/sbcil/), International Federation of Consulting Engineers, www.fidic.org

The SBE conference series is held on a three-year cycle with planning and preparation in year 1, national/regional conferences held in year 2 and a single global event held in year 3. 2016 was year 2 of the current cycle, with a total of 20 national events planned, to be followed by a global event in Hong Kong in June 2017.

The series places a core emphasis on peer-reviewed papers, presentations of regional policy papers, displays of pre-evaluated projects and a small number of high-quality commercial exhibits. These events also provide fast-track inclusion of the best technical papers from national/regional conferences into the global event, as well as registration policies designed to encourage the attendance of students and delegates from developing countries.

Although the four partner organizations operate the series as a whole, each event is the total responsibility of local organizers.

The Hamburg SBE16 conference

The main organizers of the Hamburg SBE16 event included the HafenCity University, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) and the Hochschule München. Several German agencies and private-sector firms were supporting sponsors of the event.



The conference was held within the HafenCity urban regeneration project, a project of [urban regeneration](#) in which the old port warehouses of Hamburg are being replaced

with offices, hotels, shops, official buildings, and residential areas. According to Wikipedia, the project is the one of the largest rebuilding projects in Europe by landmass (approximately 2.2 km²). The area of the HafenCity used to be part of the [free port](#), but with the decreased economic importance of free ports in an era of European Union free trade, large container ships and increased border security, the Hamburg free port was reduced in size, removing the current HafenCity area from its restrictions. When completely developed, it will be home to about 12,000 people and the workplace of 40,000 people mostly in office complexes. The prospect for completion is not very clear, but will probably be around 2020-2030.

The conference venue was the HafenCity University Hamburg (University of the Built Environment and Metropolitan Development or HCU Hamburg) which was founded by the City of Hamburg in 2006 as a merger of four departments from three Hamburg universities. It is the only university Europe-wide that is solely focused on architecture and metropolitan development. For this reason, the entire range of disciplines of the HCU is oriented towards understanding and designing the urban environment, and this made it a very appropriate venue for the conference.

Some specific aspects of the conference of interest include:

- The main conference days ran through Tuesday March 8 to Thursday March 10. These were preceded by a half day of excursions and followed by sessions for PhD students on Friday March 11;
- There were more than 400 participants each day during the main part of the conference, and 213 presenters from 41 countries. The large number of countries represented may seem unusual for an event that was part of a series of national conferences, but was an intentional strategy pursued by the organizers;
- The organization of the three core conference days was based on a mix of three morning parallel sessions, with special plenary sessions in the afternoons. Following the main conference days, a special session was held for young researchers.
- Presentations and papers were organized in such a way that the three days were of special interest to certain groups of delegates - Tuesday for municipal issues, Wednesday for housing industry papers and Thursday for planning, architecture and engineering.

Keynote and Plenary presentations

Several speeches were made during the first morning to welcome the delegates and to establish the context for the event.

Dr. Walter Pelka, President of HafenCity University, the Federal Minister of Environment Dr. Barbara Hendricks and the Deputy Mayor, Senator Katharina Fegebank, all made short welcoming speeches. These were followed by a short overview of the SBE series presented by Nils Larsson, the series manager, while Man-kit Leung from the Hong Kong WSBE17 organizing committee gave a short introduction to their plans for the global event in June 2017.

Dr. Thomas Luetzkendorf from Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) and head of the scientific program then provided overview of the Hamburg conference content.



Prof. Dr. Mojib Latif (GEOMAR Kiel) and Hans-Dieter Hegner, the Head of the Department for construction engineering, building science and sustainable building of the Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety made major keynote speeches that focused on climate change issues.

On Wednesday, several plenary presentations were made in the morning.

Nils Larsson presented observations about the COP21 event in Paris, focusing on the Buildings Day and the launch of the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (Global ABC). This was followed by a keynote of Stefan Schurig (World Future Council) about the outcome means for future cities and by Wim Bakens (CIB) who presented some recent CIB Initiatives related to Sustainable Construction. The final presentation in this session was made by Dr. Harry Lehmann (Federal Environment Agency) concerning COP21 Paris and its consequences for sustainable building.

The scientific sessions

The scientific sessions included more than 120 oral presentations plus poster presentations scheduled in more than 20 different sessions. There was far too much material to describe in this summary, but the wide range of topics gives some idea of the richness of the content.

- Construction products and construction processes
- Design stages – importance and contribution
- Energy supply for urban areas
- Portfolio management & improvement of building stock
- Sustainability assessment systems
- Urban planning and energy
- Urban design and mobility
- Urban development under specific conditions
- Development of neighbourhoods and urban districts
- Education

- Net zero and plus energy buildings
- Cost and value – the economic point of view
- Examples from outside of Europe
- Public sector – activities and experiences
- Collaboration and user involvement
- Infrastructures and constructed assets
- Timber structures and bio-based products
- Resource efficiency and recycling
- Stakeholder perspective and action
- Cooling, ventilation, air conditioning

Special Sessions

The Hamburg conference included 4 special sessions that covered special topics or stakeholders. These were:

- *An open International Data Network? – Harmonization of LCA data bases for sustainable building*, supported and organized by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety.
- *Sport Facilities – a Promoter for Sustainable Environment?* organized by Prof. Dr.-Ing. Natalie Eßig from the Munich University of Applied Sciences (MUAS).
- *Development of an energy efficient façade: Current technologies and measurement installation*, organized by the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences.
- *The GPEE project* (German Polish Energy Efficiency Project) on energy efficiency in buildings as a means to contribute to climate protection in German and Polish Cities..
- *Planning for Energy-Efficient Cities (PLEEC)*, organized by the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences and presenting PLEEC project results.

Conclusions

The Hamburg SBE16 event was a major success, judged by the quality and breadth of content and the reaction of delegates I encountered at the event. In addition, the organizational support for delegates and speakers was first-rate.

For access to the proceedings go to <http://digbib.ubka.uni-karlsruhe.de/volltexte/1000051699>. This is a massive PDF document 53.9 MB in size and containing 1377 pages.

For access to the keynote presentations, go to <http://www.sbe16hamburg.org/sbe16-hamburg-in-retrospect/>

Nils Larsson, for the SBE partners.

