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PROFESSIONAL SHARING SERIES:
The Landscape of UK Construction and Infrastructure

9 October 2013, Wednesday • 10.30am - 12.30pm • BCA Academy, 200 Braddell Road Singapore 579700

Over the last few years the UK Government has initiated two major policy-based changes in the way it considers construction and civil infrastructure. These each have potentially far-reaching consequences, and are beginning to have an impact on both domestic and international policy and strategy in the procurement and both operations and maintenance of buildings and infrastructure.

Within infrastructure, the implications of a number of extreme, natural events have led to a view that infrastructure needs to be considered as a system of systems, rather than as a number of discrete silos as was currently the case. A Government body named Infrastructure UK was established within HM Treasury in 2009 to provide a co-ordinating force at Government level for the five defined components of national economic infrastructure, namely energy, water, waste, transport and ICT. Work has been initiated to understand the interdependencies between these five components, with a view to harnessing synergies and minimizing harmful ‘knock-on’ consequences. In addition, a joint consideration of these infrastructure areas allows a combined list of future infrastructure requirements to be developed and maintained. This benefits both the supply and demand sides of the industry, in that it allows the supply side to understand and tool-up for a known forward demand and reduces rapid price fluctuations for the demand side. It also allows infrastructure funders to develop long term investment strategies, rather than have to react to demand on a case by case basis.

Separately, the Government has become convinced that the use of BIM techniques in procurement will reduce capital costs and so allow increased public sector procurement in economically straitened times. As such, it mandated in May 2011 that all central government procurement of construction and infrastructure should be undertaken using Level 2 BIM techniques by March 2016. Progress over the last two years has been rapid, and pilot cases to date indicate a cost savings of 15-20% compared with “traditional” cost estimates. Whilst there are still three years to go to fulfill the Government’s mandate, work has recently commenced on a roadmap for developing and implementing full Level 3 BIM working.

Both of these initiatives require a whole life approach to be adopted. Whilst they are independent initiatives, there is significant common ground in both the concepts and activities attached to them. Professor Broyd has been centrally engaged with both initiatives since their inception, and is well placed to provide a commentary on work to date as well as ideas of future research and development actions.

PROFESSOR TIM BROYD FREng FICE
Chair in Built Environment Foresight
The Bartlett Faculty of the Built Environment, University College London

Throughout his career Professor Broyd has worked at the interface between industry practice and academic thinking in the construction and infrastructure sectors, including in roles with a formal responsibility for influencing business and government leaders to embrace and drive innovation through their organizations. His experience includes five years as chief executive of industry research body CIRIA, as well as a number of years as the corporate research and innovation director of Atkins.

He founded a national centre for construction innovation and excellence in Scotland, is the founding Chair of the ICE’s Policy Panel, and is actively involved in national innovation forums related to both construction and infrastructure. He is a Fellow of both the Royal Academy of Engineering and the Institution of Civil Engineers, a Visiting Professor at both the University of Reading and the University of Dundee and External Examiner of MSc courses at UCL and Cambridge. He has maintained an active engagement in the development and deployment of BIM techniques for over a decade, and is Vice Chairman of BuildingSmart (UK) Ltd. He is also a Director of GECUAL Limited, and became Vice President of the Institution of Civil Engineers in November 2011. Professor Broyd graduated from the University of Birmingham with a First Class Honours degree in Civil Engineering, and remained there to study for a PhD in the mixing of salt and fresh waters in natural British estuaries.

To register, please RSVP by 3 October 2013, Thursday. CLICK HERE

Dress Code: Office Attire.