



*Don Ward, Constructing
Excellence Chief Executive*

Dear all

It has taken far too long for me to make time to write to you, but I hope this will be the launch of a regular newsletter for partners of the Constructing Excellence International Alliance, with whom we have signed an MOU. As I write this I am en route to Qatar, where we have just helped establish what will become the ninth partner in our International Alliance.

Below you will find what I thought were a few interesting stories from around the world. I hope we can put together a newsletter like this maybe 2-3 times a year, and if so then I would welcome contributions from each of you on a regular basis.

I have been in contact with many (but not all) of you individually over the last year, and everyone has commented that it would be valuable to convene a face-to-face meeting or workshop of all the Alliance partners. We all have similar objectives, deliver a number of activities in common, and are like-minded when it comes to our ambition for improvement. The suggestion therefore is that we meet for a 2-day session, and the agenda could include some or all of the following:

- learn about each other's activities and plans,
- understand the strengths and weaknesses of each country's industry,
- understand what value the Alliance may add for partners,
- confirm any activities to promote the Alliance network (eg website, joint newsletter etc), and how these might be funded or resourced at an alliance level by one or more partners
- explore whether any of these services or others could be delivered by partners in return for a fee
- agree any desired future governance structure, voting etc for the Alliance,
- explore areas for potential collaboration,
- consider the potential for joint research or dissemination projects including strategies in 3rd countries,
- agree the frequency and locations for future face-to-face meetings or video conferences.

So what do you think? Would you support the idea in principle? The Construction Industry Council (CIC) in Hong Kong has offered to host the event at their splendid offices, but we would each have to pay for travel and overnight accommodation, would you be able to justify funding for a 2-day trip to Hong Kong? It is possible that CIC or ourselves might be able to get the meeting sponsored in some way, but we have not explored that option at all yet.

Please let me know your thoughts, even a quick sentence or two would be appreciated, and I will share the feedback with everyone so that we can decide together what to do.

Meanwhile I hope you find this newsletter interesting and informative, and I would of course welcome feedback on how to improve it, as well as offers of content for future editions. My contact details are at the bottom of this newsletter.

Don Ward
Chief Executive, Constructing Excellence (UK)

Hong Kong Innovation Award 2015

Constructing Excellence International Alliance member the [Hong Kong Construction Industry Council \(CIC\)](#) has launched its Innovation Award 2015. This aims to spearhead development of new concepts to enable continuous enhancements in the construction industry in the Hong Kong SAR, the Mainland China and overseas. It also aims to recognise new creations by academia and industry practitioners in Hong Kong, as well as to arouse international awareness of Hong Kong's achievements in innovation and technology especially within the construction industry. The categories are materials, technology and management, and the prizes represent substantial cash sums. Entries are encouraged from academics and industry practitioners, and there is a specific prize for the best international applicant. More details are available in the attached documents and [here](#).



CE New Zealand's tenth birthday celebrations

I was privileged to be invited to join these celebrations from May 19-21, giving three 'keynote addresses' (their words not mine!) in three days in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. More information is available here

www.constructing.co.nz

<http://www.constructing.co.nz/Resources/Past-Event-Presentation>

The latter was particularly interesting to hear about and see a little of the rebuilding programme there – and for me, especially poignant as it brought back memories of leading a Constructing Excellence study tour in Japan just over four years ago when their earthquake triggered the tsunami that killed so many thousands as well as triggering the meltdown of the Fukushima nuclear power plant. Luckily we were in Tokyo, a city with some of the best-built buildings in the world designed to withstand the strongest earthquakes. Many in Christchurch were not so lucky, due in part to the extraordinary phenomenon of liquefaction.



Constructing Excellence launches in Qatar

Constructing Excellence in the UK and [BRE](#) have been encouraged by a number of stakeholders in Qatar to set up a new independent not-for-profit organisation in Qatar, working with Qatar University, the Qatar Green Building Council, and other local influencers. The aim is

to develop and promote excellence in delivery across the sector in Qatar to help improve briefing, procurement, employment, integrated design and construction, productivity, sustainability, value, legacy, and more. Qatar faces major challenges if it is to deliver the massive construction programmes to develop the infrastructure to support the Qatar National

Vision 2030 and the legacy beyond. The cost of the infrastructure necessary for the latter has been estimated at over \$149bn with a further \$126bn to be invested in housing, schools, hospitals, shopping centres and rail. Also of course, Qatar will be the host for the 2022 World Cup for which a major building programme of stadia and other assets is underway.

More information is available [here](#). We expect the new organisation will affiliate to the CE international alliance as soon as its formal governance is established.

Lean Construction in NZ wins international award

Lean Construction was first introduced by Constructing Excellence NZ in 2006 and since then has gone from strength to strength bringing in tangible results across a wide variety of projects from tiny to huge, from public to private and spanning building and infrastructure.

Amanda Warren, founder of CENZ was the founding chair of The Lean Construction Institute of NZ (LCINZ) and has recently handed over the chairmanship to Callum McCorquodale of Fletcher Construction. Callum is an ideal person to take up the baton having recently won a converted award for the Best Site Improvement Award.

Callum achieved this through his leadership of Lean Construction programme at the \$1.4Bn Waterview Connection project. This project is one of the most important infrastructure developments ever to take place in New Zealand. Completing a motorway ring route around the city, it will unlock Auckland's potential to become a truly world class city. Callum has demonstrated over \$3m of tangible savings through removal of waste and innovation. He has captured the hearts and minds of the hundreds of workers through the introduction of 'blue card' idea scheme, the introduction of 5S (workplace organisation) and the use of Last Planner™. Callum received his award in Sydney following a global competition.



Constructing Excellence hosts CIDB Malaysia in London

Last week we were delighted to welcome a delegation of four senior representatives of the [CIDB in Malaysia](#) to London to discuss modern methods of procurement and KPIs.

We also helped arrange meetings with NBS on BIM and the RICS on tender price indices. After introductory presentations from both sides, we covered industry KPIs, collation of data and its use for benchmarking including improvements in industry performance, results of demonstration projects. We then discussed procurement for whole-life value, and went into the detail of principles, policy, strategy, systems and processes, covering such issues as governance and transparency, client drivers, supply-chain and client selection strategy, the British Standard BS 8534:2011 and SO 10845, prequalification systems, standard forms of contract – and of course, collaborative working and how to procure for it. The final topics covered were change management and procurement capability, and how to develop the right knowledge and skills to foster intelligent informed clients. The meeting concluded with a

discussion about whether Malaysia will join the CE International Alliance, and they have taken away a copy of the MOU to consider.



The Constructing Excellence 'International Alliance'

This was conceived at a meeting in London with SBENrc from Australia, built on relationships and friendships developed over the past decade or more, and launched in December 2011. Our aim is to support the international exchange of knowledge, market

intelligence and best practice. In 2014 we were pleased to welcome two new Alliance Members taking the total to eight, Qatar will make nine:

- [Constructing Excellence UK](#)
- [Constructing Excellence in New Zealand](#)
- [Vernieuwing Bouw, Netherlands](#)
- [Sustainable Built Environment National Research Centre, SBENRC, Australia](#)
- [Bygherrefoereningen \(Danish Association of Construction Clients\)](#)
- [Hong Kong Construction Industry Council](#)
- [Project Norway \(March 2014\)](#)
- [Building and Construction Authority, Singapore \(May 2014\).](#)

The Alliance is open to any industry improvement or best practice organisation around the world which shares our aims, values and activities, and we are currently talking to CIDB Malaysia about joining us too. The purpose is to share information and ideas and to facilitate cross-border collaboration to improve the delivery of built environment around the world. For more information see [here](#) – we will need to populate this website with information, logos etc as well as ideally a news feed from each of you.

