



CIB W92 WEBINAR REPORT: The future of the Construction Sector post COVID

19

Monday 29th June 2020, 13.00 – 14:30 GMT

CIB W92 (Procurement Systems) in collaboration with the University of Salford and Constructing Excellence UK, welcomed over 300 international participants to the webinar to listen to world experts from the UK, USA, Hong Kong, UAE and South Africa.

The webinar took evidence on the immediate impact of the Pandemic, and the responses of governments and sector leaders. That the importance of the construction sector to governments worldwide in promoting economic recovery from the pandemic is now widely recognised was identified as the potential catalyst for change that has long been called for in the construction sector. The sector is key to enabling recovery to deliver long term sustainability. While there are different models being promoted to understand post-COVID recovery, the webinar promoted intense discussion under the following headings:- 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.

The webinar highlighted

- The necessity to integrate with policy and practice priorities and for the academic community to collaborate to support the post COVID recovery, and
- that the similar challenges faced worldwide place CIB in a strong position to support global collaboration to share intelligence, ideas and solutions.

Report by CIB W92 co-ordinators Professor Peter McDermott, Professor Steve Rowlinson, and by Dr. Bankole Awuzie

To view the webinar visit <https://vimeo.com/435740736/6887f99fc9>

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 CDC (Center for Disease Control) 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](#)