# **Meeting Write-up**





#### International Conference on Sustainable Built Environment ICSBE-2014:

#### Session on "Housing for Sustainable Built Environment"

Date & Time: 13<sup>th</sup> December 2014, 1.30-3.30 pm

Venue: Earl's Regency Hotel, Kandy

Purpose: Since COSTI is actively involved in promoting innovations in housing sector, the

organizers of International Conference on Sustainable Built Environment cordially invited us to play a premier role in their 5th international conference. COSTI is already having a virtual institute relating to this topic and look out for a suitable setting to launch the VI. The presence of large numbers involved in the same trade at one location is an ideal setting to launch its VI. On the other hand COSTI could able to save considerable expenditure by collaborating with this international seminar rather than hosting a separate event. The main aim of the COSTI's participation is to promote a dialogue among housing sector expert to disclose the different types of innovations, policies that

can be incorporated to the sustainable built environment.

Head Table:

Session Chair: Prof. Ajith De Alwis, Project Director, COSTI

Facilitator: Wg. Cdr. Damith Chandrasekera, Programme Director, COSTI

#### **Presentations Highlights:**

Prof. Ajith De Alwis welcoming the Government, Non-Government representatives and university student to the session on "Housing for Sustainable Built Environment". He explained the main objectives of the session and role of the Coordination Secretariat for Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI) in the scientific development of the country.

**Dr.** Ravihansa Chandratilake from University of Moratuwa, presented the importance of science and technology for sustainable development, but he suggested that this paradigm should be expanded to encompass the concept of innovation. He defined Innovation as the means by which individuals and groups apply their creative, adaptive capacities and their social, organizational, and institutional



knowledge for the generation and application of new scientific and technical knowledge. According to him significant investment and committed partnerships for the Science, Technology and innovation field is a challenge for the country. Also he emphasized that in order to develop and achieve high level of sustainability in built environment, it is important to integrate indigenous knowledge and grassroots technological innovation into formal research and development. In his presentation, he used following local experimental research as examples to show, that how those STI can be achieved productively and economically.

- i. A study on applicability of bamboo fiber reinforced mycelium bonded sawdust cladding material for partition walls
- ii. Applicability of engine oil as a wood preservative
- iii. Pumping water with vehicle tire pressure

Mr. H. M. Dayananda, Ministry of Construction, Engineering Services, Housing and Common Amenities presented the background and objectives of National Housing Policy of Sri Lanka. He explained that the national housing policy was introduced in year 2014 with the goal of ensuring Sri Lankans to live in an adequate, stable, qualitative, affordable, sustainable, environment friendly and secure house with services for creating a high living standard. The main objectives of the housing policy are,

- Qualitative and quantities improvement of the housing stocks.
- Enhancing monetary supply in housing effectively and vibrant of the national economy.
- Encouraging vertical housing development.
- Direct involvement of the government for vulnerable group.
- Strengthening the asset based of the community.
- Enhance the public private partnership in housing.

Further he explained that, based on wide range of existing housing issues, nine trust areas were identified and strategic policy guidelines were developed to ensure the national development goals.

- 1. Poverty groups
- 2. Informal income earners
- 3. Middle class
- 4. High income groups
- 5. Rental Housing
- 6. Urban land development, private investments and planning and management of condominium properties.
- 7. Integrated infrastructure and service provision

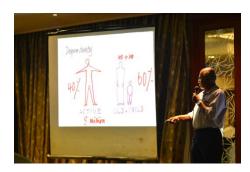
- 8. Housing technology, standardization of building materials supply and training
- 9. Housing finance.



Dr. Manitha Weerasuriya Managing Director, IIDT, EML Consultants (Pvt.)Ltd.,/ Nader R. Elhajj, Frame Cad Solutions jointly presented a Spatial Solutions for Communities and Management in Plantations. Dr. Manitha mentioned that traditional plantation worker housing in general are spatially scattered isolating from general life activities and significant percentage is located in vulnerable, disaster prone areas. Closeness to the area of work is the only justification for this placement in most cases. Further he emphasized that to overcome the current

problems faced by the plantation communities due to difficulties of terrain, accessibility for medical, educational, recreational and other facilities, it is essential to relocating the workers housing with basic facilities necessary for their day to day life to a disaster safe, central location closer to the main roads and townships. Centralization will help to manage and maintain the facilities efficiently and effectively. As a partial solution to this concept they proposed an innovative low cost solution developed in New Zealand, trade marked as FRAMECAD.

Mr. Nader R. Elhajj, Frame Cad Solutions introduced the concept of light gauge steel and how light gauge steel offers a fast track solution for affordable and sustainable housing, its benefits, along with environmental advantages. FRAMECAD; its system and technology were introduced, comparing this system with traditional construction material. Further, he explained what can be built with the FRAMECAD system and the technology, production capacity of the FRAMECAD system to meet the demand for sustainable housing development.



Mr. Udula Bandara Awsadahami presented a SMART Housing Concept for Housing Sector in Sri Lanka. In his presentation he promoted the design of "Natural House" which is fully compatibility with the natural surroundings. The overall design objective is to ensure maximum energy efficiency, low construction and maintenance cost, thermal comfort without air-conditioning, high aesthetic quality and intimate contact with the natural elements. Also he pointed out that; it is worthwhile

to focus on those ways of building that minimize the use of products that require considerable embodied energy for their manufacture or transportation. Such techniques, by their very nature, have an aesthetic value that tends to blend in with the environment and "feel" natural. It will results in,

- Health for the body
- Peace for the mind
- Harmony with the environment

According to him, in order to develop the concept of "Natural House" concept, progressive designers should look into past culture to examine materials and construction methods that have proven successful over hundreds of years.



Mr. Ajantha Janaka, Deputy General Manager, NHDA presented "Affordable Housing Designs and Materials". He explained that high price of building construction is due to the constantly rising costs of building materials. It is now widely recognized that the cost of housing can be reduced and speed and quality of construction stepped up through the use of emerging innovative building materials and technologies. In this process, the NHDA has introduced number of building materials and technologies for promotion of cost-effective, environment-friendly & energy-efficient innovative building materials

and construction technologies for housing. In his presentation, he used following local experimental research to promote cost-effective building materials and techniques,

- Compressed stabilized earth blocks- CSEB
- Reduce the usage of timber
- Instead of tiling the floor & wall use titanium oxide

On behalf of the COSTI, Dr. Geetha Abeysinghe, Director-IT, also addressed the gathering and explained concept of Virtual Institute (VI) and Base Camp. Further she invited all the participants to join with COSTI through the base camp.















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## International Conference on Sustainable Built Environment ICSBE-2014

### 12-15 December, 2014

### Session on "Housing for Sustainable Built Environment"

Date: December 13, 2014 Time: 01.30 pm to 03.30 pm Earl's Regency Hotel, Kandy

Session Chair: Prof. Ajith de Alwis, Programme Director, COSTI

Facilitator: Wg. Cdr. Damith Chandrasekera, Programme Director-COSTI

### **Session Plan**

01.30 pm- 01.35pm	Welcome and objectives Prof. Ajith De Alwis, Project Director - COSTI
01.35 pm – 01.55 pm	Incorporation of STI for Sustainable Built Environment, Dr. Ravihansa Chandratilake, University of Moratuwa
01.55 pm – 02.15 pm	National Housing Policy of Sri Lanka, Mr. Lakvijaya Palansooriya, Consultant, Janasevana Secretariat / Mr. K.A. Thilakaratne, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Construction, Engineering Services, Housing & Common Amenities, Mr. H.M. Dayananda, GM, Reel Company
02.15 pm – 02.35 pm	Spatial Solutions for Communities and Management in Plantations, Dr.  Manitha Weerasuriya Managing Director, IIDT, EML  Consultants(Pvt.)Ltd.,/ Nader R. Elhajj, Frame Cad Solutions
02.35 pm – 02.55 pm	SMART Housing Concept for Housing Sector in Sri Lanka, Mr. Udula Bandara Awsadahami
02.55 pm – 03.15 pm	Affordable Housing Designs and Materials, Mr. Ajantha Janaka, Deputy  General Manager, NHDA

03.15 pm – 03.20 pm	Introduction to Virtual Institutes(VI) of "Housing for All" and Base Camp, Dr.Geetha Abeysinghe, Director- IT, COSTI
03.20 pm – 3.30 pm	Panel Discussion Prof. Ajith De Alwis, Project Director - COSTI