

8th Nordic Conference on Construction Economics and Organization, May 28-29 2015, Tampere, Finland

Editorial



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1. Introduction

This volume includes selected papers presented at the 8th Nordic Conference on Construction Economics and Organization, May 28-29 2015, Tampere, Finland. The CEO2015 conference was organised by Tampere University of Technology and Finnish Association of Civil Engineers. It is the CREON network i.e. Construction Researchers on Economics and Organisation in the Nordic region which is behind of this Nordic series of Conferences on Construction Economics and Organization.

Nordic conferences on Construction Economics and Organization have been biennial events for academics and industry people. These events are bringing together experts globally and those particularly from Nordic countries for sharing and learning new knowledge, to meet colleagues, get new connection and to visit/see interesting construction case projects or companies. For academics these conferences are important publishing channels. The accepted double-blind reviewed papers are published using widely recognised academic media.

In industrial sense the CEO conferences are about the built environment sector, understanding relating phenomena such as value creation, functioning of this sector and its stakeholders, relating developments and prospects for changes. The research, development and innovation activities can focus on three possible abstraction levels. Those are macro, meso and micro levels. Typically the macro level can be understood to address the aspects in levels such as society, nation, international or global. Here examples representing center if interests can be regulatory systems, political decision making, investments on infrastructure, environmental impacts and

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involvement of citizens. In the built environment sector the micro level is usually understood as smallest unit of analysing operations such as building construction sites, facilities management and individuals' decision making. The meso level falls between macro level and micro level. Examples of meso level viewpoints are companies, institutions, community development and needs of different demographic groups.

In academic sense we see construction economics and organization as a broad research field that has clear connections social science, management studies, economics together with several other research communities such as knowledge management, systems theory, organisational studies, competence research, cultural competency, production theory, information and communication technologies. These examples are pointing out sources of inspiration and academic cooperation that are often providing starting points for research efforts of construction economics and organization. On the other hand we can see relevance to the opposite direction as well. Researching construction economics and organization is producing valuable concepts, models, logical structuring, tools and relating research based data that can have fundamental importance not to the built environment research community but also towards more generic research fields.

2. Conference themes

Together with the surrounding communities and their players the built environment sector is under continuous change. Via globalization the number of different factors, actors and their systems behind different changes has clearly increased and seem to be growing further. This has produced a situation where the actual change need to be researched and understood in an improved way. This provided the original motivation for the overall theme of the CEO2015 conference that is *Leadership for targeted change and proven advancements*. The following titles represent key areas for which the conference was planned to contribute.

- Gaining desirable changes in real estate and construction sector
- Change towards sustainable built environment and environmental friendly behaviour
- Processes and methods for realizing change initiatives
- Principles, methods and tools for the management of change in processes and projects
- Learning from change: challenges in change processes
- Change behaviour – methods and models to affect change processes
- Business and operations management under unceasing change
- Built environment, companies and projects as systems

The overall value of real estate and construction sector (RECS) is widely recognised in a new manner. Instead of the traditional viewing the built environment merely as a commodity the more modern understanding is much broader where the built environment is seen as an essential source for human well-being, health and competitiveness of regions and their sustainability. At the same time the overall performance expectations are much higher setting new kinds of demands for the end products and the processes leading towards those.

The weight of past is the main problem in the RECS sector. The traditional models of procurement, operations, organizations, the attitudes and culture relating to those are forming a challenging combination that is very difficult to change without their radical reformation. However, this change looks a much needed one and therefore all different key players and parties should put serious attention on it.

The 8th Nordic conference on Construction Economics and Organization has its focus on the business environment change described above and its consequences. With its general theme “Leadership for targeted change and proven advancements” this conference is bringing together leading experts from academia and industry for showing the way ahead based on the latest research based findings and industrial experiences. We welcome contributions from industry, research institutes and academics. Accordingly, a somewhat more specific sub-themes of the conference included:

1. Innovations for improved construction quality and performance

- Re-design of business models
- Innovation in construction
- Managing Change & Innovation

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