

CBE contributes to the Green Building Council Convention

In an effort to ensure a sustainable built environment, the Council for the Built Environment (CBE) has sponsored the first Green Building Council of South Africa (GBCSA) Convention and Exhibition, which was held at the Cape Town International Convention centre (CTICC) from 2 – 4 November 2008.

The Council for the Built Environment is charged by its mandate to promote and maintain a sustainable built environment and natural environment. In fulfilling this mandate, the CBE is undertaking a project on Green building concepts and application in South Africa. As part of this project, the CBE participated in the GBCSA Convention and Exhibition set to make a huge impact on green building within the South African context.

The convention marked the launch of South Africa's first voluntary green building rating tool, Green Star SA – Office v1the , aimed is to inspire and inform the South African property industry about green building and energy efficient technologies.

With the country being one of the world's 20 largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions, South Africa is beginning to recognize that it has an important role to play in addressing global warming and climate change issues so that it can increase relationship and international exposure.

The conference was address by worlds leading green building experts - both locally and internationally presentation addressed global trends in green building and energy efficiency strategies. These include amongst others *High-Level Perspectives on the Green Building Movement, The Costs and Benefits of Green Building, South Africa's Energy Crisis*, and also practical case studies presentations and solutions to green building issues.

The Chief Executive Officer of the GBCSA, , Rick Fedirizzi said the inaugural convention and exhibition shaped up to be one of the most important and exciting events for South Africa's property industry this year. The program was incredibly strong as they managed to secure some of the world's leading authorities and pioneers of the green building movement who dealt with green building from vision to fundamentals.

CBE's direct contribution was a sponsorship of Ms. Vivian Loftness of the University in the USA. Vivian is an internationally renowned researcher, author and educator with over 30 years of focus on environmental design and sustainability, advanced building systems integration, climate and regionalism in architecture, as well as design for performance in the work place of the future. This was a great opportunity, and of special interest to CBE in establishing relationships with some of the keys stakeholders in the industry. Her presentation was entitled '**Sustainable Design for Health and Productivity.**' She attributed that for buildings to meet green initiatives they must have air, light, thermal

comfort, ergonomics, material quality and access to nature. These attributes are what essentially insurance companies require. It is one of the ways the LEED system in America is having an effect.

She has served on 7 National Academy of Science panels as well as being a member of the Academy's Board on Infrastructure and the Constructed Environment, and given three Congressional testimonies on sustainable design. Her work has influenced both national policy and building projects, including the Adaptable Workplace Lab at the U.S. General Service Administration and Laboratory for Cognition at Electricity de France.

Vivian received the 2002 National Educator Honor Award from the American institute of Architecture Students and a 2003 "Sacred Tree" Award from the USGBC. She has a Bachelors of Science and Masters of Architecture from MIT, and is on the National Boards of the USGBC and TSAC, AIA Communities by Design, Turner Sustainability, and the global Assurance Group of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. She is a fellow of the American institute of Architects and is a registered architect.

The CBE lead by the chief executive officer, Mr. Bheki Zulu, manager at research policy, Ms. Nana Mhlongo and researcher, Mr. Ehrhard Visser had an opportunity to have a dinner meeting with Ms. Loftness. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the CBE as well as to learn more about her engagements and to identify opportunities for a working relationship. In an exclusive introductory meeting with Vivian Loftness such meeting will enable the CBE an opportunity to get exposure to an international research expert on issue of sustainable development, to discuss potential areas of collaboration and to learn more of international research initiatives and to discuss how they are relate to South Africa

By: Moses Mohlopi