The Civil Engineering Triennial Summit – resilience and growth for future cities

Institution of Civil Engineers

Three global engineering institutions – the Institution of Civil Engineers, American Society of Civil Engineers and the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering – are coming together, leveraging the combined expertise of 300,000 members to deliver a summit on resilience and growth for the world's future cities. The summit will connect decision makers and the investment community from around the world with engineers, technology experts and built environment professionals together to address the challenges of civic resilience and major issues facing future cities.

St John's, Newfoundland, venue for the 2009 Triennial meeting, and representative of many thousands of cities around the world seeking growth and increased economic, social and environmental resilience (Source: Roger Venables)

The Civil Engineering Triennial Summit 2015 will be taking place on 9-10 December in Westminster, London at the Institution Civil Engineers (ICE) headquarters. This is the first time in a decade that the two-day summit returns to the ICE in Westminster. Built by engineers, the programme features more than 40 speakers from across the globe who already make the world's cities more resilient.

The Summit provides a chance to learn from and shape thinking on the funding, development and build of the globe's future cities. The Summit will acknowledge the complex problems facing cities including the new reality of extreme weather events, population surges and resource scarcity. Research suggests that the earlier cities begin to future proof, the better the end results will be, so the focus of this year's Summit is on future planning and resilience. Physical structures and the political, economic and societal mechanisms that support resilience must be up to task. Otherwise cities and their societies risk exponential poverty, social inequality and economic decline, and vulnerability to terrorism and conflict.

By joining together built environment professionals from around the world, the Civil Engineering Triennial Summit 2015 will connect people at the forefront of civic resilience to:

- Highlight best practice case studies of resilience from a range of future city projects around the world: which measures are adaptable to your city, community or asset?
- Share the latest climate change and demographic models resulting in better informed, sustainable future risk management decisions.
- Pinpoint the regions and cities at the highest risk/recovery profile. Which cities can we best help with the finite resources available?
- Address issues of financially resilient infrastructure – outlining an holistic-benefits approach to international funding and demonstrating return on investment.
- Identify any gaps in skills or diversity amongst the engineering workforce that would limit our ability to future proof cities. What steps can we take to close them?
- Troubleshoot barriers to development of resilience projects, collaborative working, new technology roll out and scaling up smart city test beds.
- Disseminate findings from leading academic projects at the forefront of future city and resilience research.
- Outline the way forward: how do we ' build in' resilience to infrastructure, societal consciousness and political decision making?

Why a focus on resilience and growth for future cities?

- The earlier cities future proof the better the end result
- The ongoing digital revolution of the built environment is creating multiple benefits
- The window of opportunity is shrinking – the majority of urban infrastructure in developing cities will be built in the next 5 years
- The scale of the challenge means people are slipping into poverty every day
- There is a pressing security need to improve global resilience

With the focus of the Summit on resilience and future proofing cities, inevitably innovation is a theme entwined within the content of much of the Summit. Some aspects of the agenda that particularly harness innovation as a theme includes:

- The digital revolution and intelligent data management as a step towards a resilient and vibrant future for cities. Intelligent data management systems can provide a backbone enabling better visibility, better decisions, a clearer view of networks and services, such as transport, energy and eGovernment, which cut across society.
- Integrating and collaborating a wide range of stakeholders to enable the progression of future cities. It is important to acknowledge how people can be the most powerful blockers to the progress of future cities with difficulties in getting everyone working together.
- The need for innovation and a focus on decarbonised infrastructure and a low carbon economy.

For further information and to register for a place at the Summit please visit www.ice-triennial.com.