



Grow2Build International Conference

On the 9th and 10th September 2015 an International Conference of Biocomposites and Sustainable Development in Construction was held in Brunel University London to focus on current topics within the construction industry and thereby work towards a more sustainable construction sector.

The conference brought together academics, researchers and industry representatives from around the globe, e.g. China, Iran, Netherlands, UK, etc., in order to promote and discuss the latest scientific and technical developments on the rapidly emerging biocomposite products in construction. New concepts and techniques, together with the identification of new challenges were presented in the conference.

Topics presented, in the first day of the conference, ranged from the discussion of BREEAM and Green Materials by Dr. Chunli Cao, to the development of woodcrete from treated sawdust by Dr. Patrick Aigbomain, and the use of natural fibre SMC for construction by Dr. G Ren. This was followed by the opportunity to visit the European Centre of Excellence in Brunel University for the chance to explore the exposition of sustainable product chains and technical information. After visiting the centre for a networking session, the conference continued with the project manager of the Grow2Build, John Verhoeven, explaining the challenges faced in the chain of Grow2Build and later ended with a conference dinner.

The second day of the conference had a similar program and began with Dr Morwenna Spear presenting case studies of ways to enhancing wood plastic composite properties for furniture and construction sectors. John Hutchinson and Andy Barron both discussed similar concepts in the use of natural resources, such as straw, as a building material for the development of “green” based passive houses from architectural perspectives. The conference was concluded by Prof Mizi Fan explaining the life-cycle of construction materials from its natural fibre origin and how important it has become in innovation and development for construction, whilst emphasising the amount of thought and detail processed into achieving great innovation.



Further information about the Grow2Build project can be found by visiting www.grow2build.eu or by visiting the European Centre of Excellence at Brunel University, which guarantees the continuation of the initiative after the project. You can also contact the centre by visiting www.brunel.ac.uk/grow2build