

CONFERENCE



Global Construction & Infrastructure

Global Construction Rethink: Trends that will Shape
Tomorrow's Construction and Infrastructure

20 June 2024



Type of event

Online



CPD Hours

6

Formal



Included in

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Oxford Economics forecasts that the global volume of construction work is expected to increase by US\$4.2 trillion over the next 15 years, bolstered by the burgeoning green economy. China is expected to witness a resurgence in its construction sector from 2025 onwards, while the United States contends with a \$150 billion shortfall in housing. Meanwhile, India is on track to become the fastest-growing construction behemoth globally, with the United Kingdom leading the pace in Western Europe.

The industry stands at a pivotal junction, marked by a technological renaissance and environmental imperatives. Sustainable development is surging, with advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), and robotics increasingly integrated into construction practices. These advancements, along with a concerted effort towards infrastructure modernization, are steering the sector toward an era of unprecedented growth and change. This evolution is in sync with the global imperative to build sustainable, efficient, and intelligent urban environments, amidst the challenges of urbanization and climate change.

This year's conference offers a critical platform for industry professionals to learn from global thought leaders about adapting to emerging sustainability standards, comprehending the newest eco-friendly construction trends and technologies, deliberating over strategies to overcome sector-specific obstacles with inventive solutions, and to facilitate cross-regional industry collaboration. This is a unique opportunity for networking, knowledge-sharing, and partnering with industry peers worldwide, enabling industry professionals to remain at the forefront of innovation and contribute to a more sustainable and technologically advanced future in the built environment.

Programme



APAC
20 June 2024



EMEA
20 June 2024

Time zone: (GST=Dubai Time, BST=London Time, EST=New York Time)

GST

BST

10:30

7:30

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Registration and virtual networking

Welcome remarks from Conference Chair

Roger Esson MRICS, Chair of RICS Professional Group Panel - Construction

Opening speech from RICS

Nicholas Maclean, Senior Vice President, RICS

Virtual networking and exhibition break

Opening keynote: Global Construction and Infrastructure Futures

This session will delve into the latest global construction market trends and provide a forward-looking forecast of the sector's future.

- Examine the outlook for the global economy and understand the headwinds and tailwinds shaping the future of global construction and infrastructure – across all regions and key countries.
- Look at the potential impact of upcoming elections globally on construction and infrastructure – especially the US and UK election cycle.
- Review the key drivers of demand globally for construction and the challenges and opportunities posed by rapid urbanization on cities of the future.
- Examine prospects globally for construction and in key country markets.
- Consider the impact of net zero and climate change on construction and infrastructure.
- Learn how a circular economy and new circular business models can drive greater sustainability and new business opportunities in construction – including how an emerging deconstruction industry might evolve.
- The imperative for sustainable and resilient infrastructure.

This presentation will offer valuable insights into how these factors are collectively reshaping the construction and infrastructure landscape worldwide. Attendees will gain an understanding of the strategic directions, emerging innovations, and necessary adaptations in workforce and policy that are pivotal for navigating and succeeding in this rapidly evolving sector.

Graham Robinson, Global Infrastructure and Construction Lead, **Oxford Economics**

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Virtual networking and exhibition break

Panel discussion: Adapting to Climate Change: Construction's Role

The construction industry is one of the world's largest consumers of energy and raw materials. With over 40% of carbon emissions coming from the built environment, 28 countries have joined the Buildings Breakthrough initiative, which was officially launched at COP28 UAE. They have committed to work together to ensure that "near-zero emission and resilient buildings become the new normal by 2030".

This panel will bring together environmental scientists and industry professionals to explore strategies for building resilient structures, look at how construction can adapt to and mitigate the impact of climate change and explore how the construction industry can contribute to climate change mitigation.

This session will focus on building climate-resilient structures, climate impact assessments for projects, how global standards ICMS3 and WLCA 2nd edition activate the industry to achieve net-zero ambitions and sustainable construction practices.

Moderator: **Amit Patel** MRICS, Head of Professional Practice – Construction, RICS

Panelists: **Bhavya Kukrety**, Managing Director, **Meinhardt Singapore**

Heather Evans, Partner – National Head of Sustainability, **RLB**

12:30

9:30

Virtual networking and exhibition break

Keynote presentation: Advancements in Construction Technology: A Global Overview

This session will showcase the digital revolution reshaping construction.

- Examine cutting-edge technologies transforming the construction industry globally, such as 3D printing, AI, BIM, IoT and robotics.
- Capture the untapped value of AI adoption and data analytics in the construction & infrastructure sector.
- Share case studies from various regions on how these technologies are being implemented, and cutting-edge tools that are streamlining project management and elevating construction standards.

Ben Huskisson, Chief Digital Officer, **Gleeds**

James Garner FRICS, Global Head of Data, Insights & Analytics, **Gleeds**

13:10

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13:20

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Virtual networking and exhibition break

Panel discussion: Decarbonising Construction: Innovative Building Materials and Construction Techniques

The UNEP's report "Building Materials and The Climate: Constructing A New Future" from September 2023 highlights the significant carbon footprint of the buildings and construction sector, which accounts for 37% of global emissions.

This session will explore the latest advances in construction innovation. Our panel of experts in prefabrication, modular construction, and advanced materials, will delve into how these cutting-edge techniques are reshaping the construction landscape.

Find out the benefits and challenges of prefabrication and modular construction, the use of new and sustainable materials, how these innovations are driving efficiency in construction projects, and how they contribute to reducing the environmental impact of buildings.

Moderator: **Nicky Dobreanu** FRICS , Branch Director , **Omnium International Limited (Dubai Branch)**

Panelists: **Annabel Thorne** , Director and Sustainability Lead, **Atkins Réalis**
Jane Boyle, Head Sustainability, **Abu Dhabi Airports**

Trudi Sully, UK and Europe Lead - Industrialised Design & Construction,
Mott MacDonald

Sarah Jaber, Senior Associate Sustainability Consultant , **AESG**

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11:50

Virtual networking and exhibition break

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Panel discussion: Navigating Supply Chain Challenges

The global construction supply chain is grappling with skilled labour shortages, an ageing population and geopolitical disruptions, leading to material scarcities and increased costs. This session will dissect the complexities of current global supply chain issues and offer strategies for resilience.

Discover how the best in the business are managing material shortages and cost fluctuations, and covers effective supply chain management, risk mitigation, and adapting to global logistical challenges in the construction industry.

Moderator: Sorina du Toit MRICS, Principal Associate, **Tamkali Ltd.**

Panelists:

David Rockhill, Partner, **McKinsey & Company**

Lee Rudderham MRICS, Programme Commercial Lead, **Transport for London**

Steve Armstrong, Global Director, Capital Program & Supply Chain Advisory, **Arcadis**

15:40

12:40

7:40

Virtual networking, exhibition break and Americas' region registration

16:00

13:00

8:00

Welcome remarks from Americas Conference Chair and Opening Speech

Chris Smith MRICS, RICS Americas World Regional Board Chair

16:20

13:20

8:20

Virtual networking, and exhibition break

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Panel discussion: Building Inclusive and Accessible Cities

Increasing equity and inclusion are among the most pressing challenges facing cities, exacerbated by climate change. Cities need to become smarter, more inclusive and accessible to adapt to urban demographic changes. Addressing the differing needs of social groups in global and local smart city policies is crucial.

This session will showcase global best practice and solutions in creating inclusive, equitable and accessible urban environments with a focus on initiatives and policies aimed at improving public spaces and buildings in various regions.

Moderator: **Terry Stocks** MBE, Director of Property UK&E, **AtkinsRealis**

Panelists: **Jeri Oka**, Senior Vice President/Shareholder/ Senior Design Principal, **The Jerde Partnership**

Phil Kim, Chairman & Managing Director Asia Pacific, **The Jerde Partnership**

Martin Smith MRICS, Director of Project Management, **TFT**

Steve Watts, Director, **Turner & Townsend**

17:10

14:10

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Virtual networking and exhibition break

17:20

14:20

9:20

Panel discussion: The Future of Work in Construction: Addressing Labour Shortage and Skills Gap

This session will explore how different regions are dealing with labour shortages and skill gaps in the construction industry including:

- Innovative training programs
- The impact of automation on the workforce
- The integration of automation and robotics
- GenZers preferences on upskilling themselves
- Strategies to attract and retain skilled workers in the construction sector.

Moderator: **Anil Sawhney** FRICS, Head of Sustainability, **RICS**

Panelists: **Karen Ching** MRICS, Regional Director, Project & Programme Services, **AtkinsRéalis**

Mohamed Anees, Regional Business Development and Communications Director, **GRFN**

Garó Hovnanian, Partner, **McKinsey & Company**

James Chambers, Director Global Industry Development - Build & Construct Division, **Nemetschek**

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Virtual networking and exhibition break

Panel discussion: Infrastructures of Change: Steering Global Investments for Future-Ready Development

With substantial investments flowing into infrastructure development worldwide, there is a renewed focus on creating more resilient, efficient, and sustainable urban and rural infrastructures. This session will analyse current and future trends in infrastructure investment. Key insights include global market growth areas, investment strategies, and the economic impact of infrastructure development on national and global scales. Gain valuable insights into where investments are flowing and what the future holds for infrastructure development worldwide.

Moderator: **James Arrow** FRICS , Director, **Project Quantum Solutions LLC**

Panelist: **Michele Connolly**, Head of Infrastructure, **KPMG Ireland**

Dr. Juliet Mian, Director of **Arup's Climate Services and Sustainability portfolio**

15:50

10:50

Virtual networking and exhibition break

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Closing Keynote: The Next Decade in Construction Sector

COP28 highlighted the urgent need to escalate climate action efforts before the end of the decade, emphasizing that the global average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements must double by 2030. This underscores the pivotal role of the construction industry in addressing climate change, positioning it at a crucial juncture. The industry is both a major contributor to global greenhouse gas emissions, and a key player with immense potential to spearhead the transition towards a sustainable future.

This session will bring a forward-looking perspective on industry evolution, technological advancements, and market opportunities in the next decade. Explore skills you need in next decade, future-proof design and construction, how circular economy can drive greater sustainability and new business opportunities in construction, how international standards foster collaborations in construction from global perspective and drive sustainable growth? Get an exclusive look into what the next decade holds, with insights on emerging trends and opportunities in the construction sectors.

Presenter: **Dr. Alexander Budzier**, Fellow in Management Practice at Saïd Business School, **University of Oxford**

16:40

11:40

Conference closing remarks

17:00

12:00

End of conference

Delivering confidence

We are RICS. Everything we do is designed to effect positive change in the built and natural environments. Through our respected global standards, leading professional progression and our trusted data and insight, we promote and enforce the highest professional standards in the development and management of land, real estate, construction and infrastructure. Our work with others provides a foundation for confident markets, pioneers better places to live and work and is a force for positive social impact.

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