

Editorial



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Welcome to the first issue for 2008 of the Australasian Journal of Construction Economics and Building. The Department of Construction Management at Curtin University of Technology is delighted to be the host of this year's issues. The variety of papers this Issue reflect the diverse range of problems and challenges facing the construction industry.

The first paper by Bee-Lan Oo* Derek S. Drew and Hing-Po Lo investigates contractors' decision to bid behaviour according to market conditions and number of bidders, within the Australia, Hong Kong and Singapore construction market. This study provides evidence that contractors' decision to bid behaviour varies in different market environments and 'bid' responses decrease as the number of bidders increases.

Lindsay Castell provides an extensive literature review regarding the extent and nature of building access for the intellectually disabled in Australia. This paper uses a combination of the knowledge gained from previous wayfinding studies and literature describing general problems faced by those with intellectual disability to create a list of difficulties, suggested solutions associated cost implications and benefits in providing the required access.

Rochelle Slater and Antony Radford explore the Australian building industry's perceptions of the relationships between architects' provision of design documentation and the constructability, programming and cost control of major projects. Some initiatives are proposed that aim to improve the professional understanding of these issues through integration within the everyday practices of architects and contractors and through a higher profile in tertiary education programs.

Jie Li and Patrick X W Zou develop an assessment framework for risks associated with Public-Private Partnership projects using fuzzy analytical hierarchy process (AHP) followed by an illustrative example where the data was obtained from survey questionnaires. The paper concludes that risks associated in PPP infrastructure projects are unique and therefore it is beneficial to classify them from project life cycle perspectives, and the proposed fuzzy AHP method is suitable for the assessment of these risks.

Marcus Towner and David Baccarini's paper deals with a ubiquitous process within the construction projects - pricing for risk in competitive tenders by construction contractors. The past decade has witnessed a developing maturity and awareness of risk management and this paper adds to our understanding in this area