Global coalition formed to unify construction measurement standards

Over 30 professional bodies from around the world met last week at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington D.C. to launch a major initiative which seeks to create international standards in construction measurement.

The International Construction Measurement Standards (ICMS) Coalition was established by non-profit organisations representing professionals in more than 140 countries. Collectively, the group aims to create overarching international standards that will harmonise cost, classification and measurement definitions in order to enhance comparability, consistency, statistics, and benchmarking of capital projects.

In an industry estimated to be worth a staggering $15 trillion by 2025 according to Global Construction Perspectives, inconsistency in something as fundamental as construction measurement and reporting can create huge uncertainty, misunderstanding, and risk (Global Construction 2025 report: http://www.globalconstruction2025.com/).

The ICMS Coalition will continue to grow as further professional organisations come forward to join the effort to align high-level principles. By early July 2015, the coalition will be formally launched. Industry corporations, contractors, and key government stakeholders will also be encouraged to contribute to and lead adoption of the new international framework in their capital markets.

The work to draft and consult on ICMS will be led by an independent committee of construction experts, due to be appointed by the coalition in the coming weeks.

The Washington meeting represented a landmark moment for construction, project management, cost engineering and quantity surveying sectors as a whole. This is the first time these professions have come together in this way to develop unifying standards which reflect and enhance the increasingly international construction market.

The coalition has stated its ambition to make tangible progress immediately and to deliver an internationally agreed and adopted standard in the near future.
ICMS Coalition Joint Members (as at 25 June 2015):

The organisations that have signed the declaration to become joint members of the ICMS Coalition are:

- Association for the Advancement of Cost Engineering (AACE)
- Association of Cost Engineers (ACostE)
- Association of South African Quantity Surveyors (ASAQS)
- China Engineering Cost Association (CECA)
- The European Council of Construction Economists –Conseil Europeen des Economists de la Construction (CEEC)
- Canadian Institute of Quantity Surveyors (CIQS)
- Federation Internationale des Geometres (FIG)
- Ghana Institute of Surveyors (GhIS)
- African Association of Quant Surveyors (AAQS)
- International Cost Engineering Council (ICEC)
- Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET)
- Nigerian Institute of Quantity Surveyors (NIQS)
- Pacific Association of Quantity Surveyors (PAQS)
- Philippine Institute of Certified Quantity Surveyors (PICQS)
- Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
- Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland (SCSI)
- Union Nationale des Economistes de la Construction (UNTEC)

A number of other associations have expressed their desire to join the coalition so it is expected that the number of signatories will continue to grow.

Contact:

ICEC member associations and their members who wish to find out more about the ICMS coalition can register to join the Coalition online discussion board at:

https://communities.rics.org/connect/t/icmscoalition/view?objectid=14279365

Further information can also be obtained from the ICEC Secretariat at: secretariat@icoste.org