

EDITORIAL

Once again it's a pleasure to commend an edition of the Australian Journal of Construction Economics and Building. This, second edition in year 2001, marks a successful first year for the journal, and if this edition receives the same type of feedback as did the first, then we will be well pleased with it's reception. The balance between the professions has been comfortably maintained, and provides what we believe is a wide breadth of interest to readers.

The content on this occasion, maintains a healthy international focus, yet has a healthy selection on Australian themes. The paper by Ai-Lin and Runeson on the subject of market differentiation is particularly recommended with its' theme of minimising risk by diversification into new markets being particularly timely given the state of the current economic cycle.

Since the appearance of the first edition of the AJCEB, our perception of the world and the risks that we run in everyday life has altered substantially with the occurrences in New York City on September 11th of this year. Much of our concept of values and risk in everyday life is based on the assumption that things will remain substantially similar to the way we find them now. Indeed the professions that we serve tend to assume that risks traditionally associated with the construction, operation and maintenance of built facilities are constant and predictable. We now face an epoch in which even such a simple underlying principal may be called into question. This could create a revolution in our professional lives. The papers in this edition of the journal have been produced in the lead-up to the terrorist attacks in the United States. I imagine that in the editions during the coming year, potential authors may well consider the changed landscape that we may now be working in. Whilst the headline-grabbing outrages are visible it is clear that we are vulnerable in many more subtle ways as well, and that disaffected people have discovered that it is easier to destroy than it is to build. Much of the world is now considering whether it is possible to change our philosophy of building, and whether we should now pay a higher price so as to give our societies a little more certainty about the lifestyles we have adopted. It would appear timely for us to consider the implications, both in Australia, and worldwide.

The editorship of the journal will rotate amongst the Universities in Australia, and I am pleased to announce that from January, Associate Professor Craig Langston of the University of Technology Sydney will become editor in chief for a period of twelve months. There will again be two editions during the coming year. It merely remains for me to offer thanks to everyone who has been concerned with bringing the journal into being, especially to Maureen Everett who has regularly performed wonderful charettes that have turned all of our good intentions into finished articles.

Alan Jeary
Editor-in-Chief
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