Standardisation in construction cost control; the beginning.

Authors: Charles Mitchell MSc, FSCSI, FRICS

Dublin Institute of Technology, Ireland. e-mail: charles.mitchell@dit.ie

Abstract: (250 to 500 words: for each heading use the bullet points or narrative - the submission including graphics should not exceed one page)

Problems - Issues / Challenges-Needs
The sharing of construction cost information across the global economy has always led to the production of questionable cost data. Given the interdependency of the various economies and their dependence on stable construction markets it has become more important to standardise the information and its resulting data for the purposes of:

- International construction cost comparison for projects of similar nature.
- Construction output as a measure of economic growth and stability.

The challenge is to see if such an international standard already exists or if an existing standard can be incorporated as the standard. In the event that such a standard does not exist then how does the global construction industry produce and introduce such a standard.

Solutions - Methods / Results - Findings
The method and strategy employed to investigate the need for such standardisation are:

- Working groups incorporating action research and public consultation.
- Investigation of existing standards and various international approaches.
- Review of the requirement of non-construction organisations such as the UN, EU and IMF to monitor construction growth.

The standardisation of construction cost management has impact on other areas of cost management such as the management of costs in Life Cycle Costing (LCC) and the use of Building Information Modelling (BIM) in the compilation of construction cost data.

Novelty - Value / Relevance to …
The introduction of international construction cost management standards allows for the production of relevant construction cost data which can be utilised in the:

- Evaluation of project viability on both national and global scales.
- Monitoring of existing and developing economies on an economic basis.

Forum statement
Construction is seen as a key indicator of economic growth and as such a standardised approach to measuring it is required.

Keywords: (up to 5 keywords)
project cost management, construction cost standard, Economic growth.

Graphics: (please use the gray area below for representative graphics or graphical summary: select the gray area below and paste your graphics)