

The Ove Arup Foundation Annual Report 2003-2004

Richard Haryott – Chairman

People

We are very pleased to report that Turlogh O'Brien, Richard Hough and Raymond Yau have agreed to join the Trustees. Turlogh has until recently been a Deputy Chairman of Arup Group but his interests have reached far outside Arup, particularly into construction research and the Construction Industry Council. Richard and Raymond give evidence to the wish of the Trustees to reflect more the international influence and interests of the Arup firm. Richard is based in Sydney, Australia, where he is a Structural Engineering Principal and has strong connections with the academic establishment. Raymond lives in Hong Kong and is a Building Services Engineering Director. He also has strong links with the universities and has been a member of the advisory board for the MIDM course at Hong Kong University since its inception. The advent of trustees from outside UK has meant that we have had to rethink how the trustees should meet. We do not think it a prudent use of funds to fly our trustees around the world. So far we have met over a telephone link, which is not always very reliable and it has also meant that some have had to give time at unsocial hours. We hope that all trustees will be able to attend in person the June 2004 meeting, as Richard and Raymond will be in UK for another meeting.

There are no changes to our Advisors from the professional institutions, who join us for two of our quarterly meetings a year and in addition are invited to contribute to discussions on the longer term planning of our work. We continue to be most grateful for the time and wisdom which they so freely give.

Financial Health

The value of our funds, following the slump in the stock markets during 2002-2003 partially recovered during the last year. We took the opportunity to review the disposition of our investments and decided to move some into a global equity fund. We are again grateful to the Arup Group for a further gift in excess of £30,000 and for continuing to provide administrative and other assistance to us. This generous support is due to be reviewed in 2005.

Website

The new website at www.theoverarupfoundation.org has generated an increased traffic in applications and enquiries even if too great a proportion of them are irrelevant to the aims of our Foundation. The site has been updated regularly with news about both the Foundation's activities and those of the organisations which we support.

Major Projects

London School of Economics

The Trustees are pleased to note that the Cities Programme is still a great success and is oversubscribed and that the ongoing commitment of the department and LSE leadership is assured. Short courses are being run for urban professionals.

We agreed to fund the provision of core teaching and support staff costs for the Urban Infrastructure and Development Course for two years at £10,000 per annum. We did decide however that, having provided about £450,000 so far, these payments would probably be the last.

University of Hong Kong

The first MIDM course was oversubscribed and local interest was high. However only six students started the second module. The intake level this year is disappointing but it is still felt that the course can succeed. However a repeat of the level of this year's intake next year would threaten the future of the

course. There is some concern about the cost of the programme.

A survey of employers of the first cohort to establish change of performance will be carried out.

Cambridge University

Following the first of our two grants of £12,500, the Trustees noted that a part-time Assistant Director, Annabel Hollick has been appointed to the IDBE course, initially to try to get course marketing directed effectively. Other funds have been released by our grant.

They are looking at corporate sponsorship, carrying out an alumni survey and considering how best to incorporate new elements, such as design management processes, into the course. There are about 16 students on the current intake.

Research

Mathematics for Engineers Research Project

Dr Philip Kent and Prof. Richard Noss at the Institute of Education were commissioned by the Foundation as part of its ongoing commitment to research into educational issues in the built environment. Their task was to review the role of mathematics in the university education of engineers and their report was published during the year and may be found on our website.

Meanwhile the Secretary of State commissioned a report by Adrian Smith on Making Mathematics Count. The reaction to this report is awaited and follow-up to our report will no doubt be influenced by this.

Other Matters

Development of Joint Civil and Building Engineering Courses.

Following on from the research work by Imperial College several universities have expressed interest in developing joint civil and building engineering courses. One has identified the problem of finding suitable lecturers in building services. We have been asked to supplement a RAE grant to Birmingham for a part-time professorship.

Teaching of Design in Undergraduate Degree Programmes

It was agreed to grant £5000 a year, initially for two years, but extendable to five years, to UMIST Manchester Centre for Civil and Construction Engineering to help fund research into the teaching of design in undergraduate degree programmes.

Constructionarium

Arising from our support for the Design Professorship at Imperial College, it was agreed in principle to give grants of £15,000 for each of two years to the Constructionarium. This would assist the growth of provision of this most worthwhile design and hands-on construct experience for undergraduate engineers.

Grants to School-Age Projects

Although we have funded a number of school-age projects over the years, there is a view that we should focus on this age group more, so it was decided to address this topic soon.

Other Donations

Other donations during the year have been as follows:

XL Wales, which stimulates creative problem solving in primary school children throughout Wales - £4000 (third year of three). We have also agreed to provide reducing future funding over the next three years.

The Lighting Education Trust, which ensures the continuation of lighting education in the UK - £1,000 annual donation.

Anglo-Danish Society – an annual scholarship worth £1,200 to enable students from the built environment to study in the other country. (final year of three)

Spacelink Learning Foundation - £2000 (final year of five).

£2,000 to *Hackney Building Exploratory* to support their educational work with schools in the borough.

£2,000 to the *Eden Scholarship* which is being established at the *Architectural Association*. (first year of five)

£4,500 to the *British Empire and Commonwealth Museum* to purchase essential resources in order to introduce and further develop a greater understanding of engineering and the built environment to children, young people and all Museum visitors

£2,000 for the design of *Architecture Books for Children*.

The Foundation Trustees also agreed to provide £5,000 to *The Forum for the Future* to take forward the recommendations in the report “Engineering for the 21st Century”.

Conclusion

We have had a busy year as can be seen from this report. We feel that we have made a significant contribution to education for the built environment in a number of ways since the Foundation was established. We look forward to continuing to influence the development of education in the sector both by providing funds directly where this is beneficial and by commissioning research. We shall still have resources available to those who apply for funding for projects which match our objects and which the Trustees feel are worthwhile.

Richard Haryott

Chairman

Trustees (2004-5):

Caroline Cole
Bob Emmerson
Richard Haryott
Richard Hough (Australia)
Duncan Michael
Turlogh O’Brien
Mike Shears
Raymond Yau (Hong Kong)

Officers

Keith Dawson (Secretary)
Stuart Irons (Treasurer)

Advisory Committee

Sir Eric Ash
Gordon Benson
Prof John Burland
Tony Flint
Max Fordham
Ian Ritchie

Website

www.theovearupfoundation.org.