

## Editorial

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In this issue, we have contributions from different parts of the developing, again touching on issues pertinent to their construction and building industries. For this, we have to thank the paper contributors as well as the reviewers.

Idoro looked at the connection between project documents in projects procured under the traditional design-bid-build approach in Nigeria and their impact on project performance. All four phases of the construction process – inception, design, tendering and construction – were examined. He found that there is room for improvement in the use of project documents, and that the improvement will lead to better time, quality and cost outcomes. Clients should therefore insist that the parties to the project give attention to preparation of project documents and their subsequent use.

Cooling buildings in hot climates inexpensively was the focus of Woodson, Coulibaly and Traoré. Experimenting in Burkina Faso, they demonstrated the viability of earth-air heat exchangers to reduce daytime temperature in living spaces. With the promising results, they hope to improve on their earth air heat exchanger model. For effective cooling though, every aspect of the buildings must be designed to be green.

Raheem, Falola and Adeyeye came up with the idea of producing lateritic interlocking blocks as an alternative to conventional sandcrete and fired clay bricks. They produced these blocks using laterite from four different parts of Nigeria. These blocks were then subjected to water absorption and compressive strength and resistance to abrasion tests. They found that blocks derived from only two sources were suitable for use. Developing countries with large deposits of laterite including Ceylon, Burma and Central America can take stock of this research output.

Idoro studied indigenous and expatriate contractors in Nigeria with regards to project monitoring and control. He found that the former implemented project control strategies more frequently than expatriate contractors. Of the eight strategies that were tested, only three – site visits, site meetings and update programmes of work – were found to be effective in mitigating cost overruns. None of the strategies however had an impact on time overruns.

Dada set out to determine the predictors of the selection of procurement paths between the traditional design-bid-build method and emerging integrated method in Nigeria. He found that the need for being fashionable, inertia, profit maximisation motive and the desire to meet an organisation's enlightened self-interest can favour one particular method over another. Human-related factors contribute to the selection process.

Chiang, Choy and Li scrutinised the connection between public expenditure and property cycle in Shanghai, China. Using data from 1992 to 2009, they found that increased public expenditure in infrastructure projects induced higher property investment and spurred local economic growth. The effect was that Shanghai

enjoyed longer booms and shorter busts. Mega-cities in other developing countries too should provide for adequate infrastructure spending to achieve the same end.

Based on three case studies, Senarathne and Jayarathna conclude that Sri Lankan contractors are not ready to implement strategic quality planning due to several barriers which include a lack of corporate quality culture and the complexity in developing long-term quality plans. Corporate change is difficult in the face of clients who are not quality-driven during the contractor selection process. Economic crisis provides further distraction from the development of such strategic quality plan.

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