

# Need for integral thinking, awareness of problems, and determination



The workshop participants studied specific topics in small groups and then discussed potential solutions and approaches in plenum.



In search of solutions: Sheila Kennedy, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, USA.

The present climate change is being caused mainly by greenhouse gas emissions, for which humans are responsible. An estimated 35 percent of these emissions come from buildings. To halt climate change, ways must be found to rapidly reduce CO<sub>2</sub> production also in the construction industry. In the Yellow Workshop, facilitated by Sheila Kennedy, Hansjürg Leibundgut, Menghao Qin, Mike Schlaich, Masanori Shukuya, and Werner Sobek, the participants investigated questions such as how innovative construction materials and energy technologies can be pushed to achieve a breakthrough.

The workshop was full of vigorous discussions and marked by a democratic spirit. The participants not only proposed and discussed solu-



tions, they also voted on them. They concentrated on three stakeholder groups: building professionals, the public, and government. Building professionals need to apply more integral planning, and designers and contractors need to work closer together. Energy consumption remains too high because we lack suitable evaluation systems to reliably predict performance during the design phase. The public needs to be made aware of the problems; education must begin earlier, and access to relevant facts must be improved. The workshop participants agreed that governments have been showing little will to lead change. Common ground must be found for environmental and commercial interests, and political decisions must be made based on evidence.



Collaboration in the Yellow Workshop was a democratic process: Participants voted on proposed solutions.



Presenting workshop findings summarized into the “2010 Mexico City Manifesto”: Hansjürg Leibundgut, ETH Zurich, Switzerland.



PumaBús – a free public transport system for the campus of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM).



The first stop of the Yellow Mobile Workshop introduced the participants to “Eco-bici”, a bike-sharing program initiated by the Mexican government.

The topic-related excursion, led by Bernardo Baranda and Salvador Herrera, gave the participants of the Yellow Mobile Workshop a better understanding of how CO<sub>2</sub> emissions can be reduced through public transportation systems. Professionals around the world have noticed Mexico City’s new Metrobús, with a network of 47 kilometers and 81 stops. The modern, low-emission buses travel in special traffic lanes reserved for public vehicles. The National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) chose a similar system for its campus, which had been plagued with traffic jams and air pollution. The buses ease the problem of heavy, milling traffic. The PumaBús system was introduced in 2000, it has been connected to the metro network since 2008, and it is augmented by Bicipuma (bicycle) routes. A further section, considered by



some to be somewhat less promising, lead to Xochimilco, listed on UNESCO's World Heritage register. This freshwater lake, which serves as an irrigation reservoir, has suffered one of the most radical transformations resulting from urbanization. Although there are efforts to save the area, they have been insufficient so far. New plans are envisioned for this site over the next few years.



The excursion also presented Metrobús, a bus system with dedicated lanes. This modern transport alternative is helping to solve the city's traffic problems.



In Xochimilco is the last remnant of the Five Lake System – it is a tourist destination, and it is threatened.