

# Department of Construction Economics signs agreement with Australian partners

The University of Pretoria signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Australian Institute of Building (AIB) on 17 April 2015. The MoU aims to establish closer cooperation between the two organisations in an effort to enhance the professionalism of builders, construction managers, academics and graduates within the profession of construction management in Australia and South Africa.



→ Prof Tinus Maritz, Head of the Department of Construction Economics (left) and Norman Faifer, National President of the Australian Institute of Building, signed an MoU to establish closer cooperation between the two organisations.

The AIB's, National President, Norman Faifer, and Prof Tinus Maritz, Head of the Department of Construction Economics at the University of Pretoria, signed the agreement at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Perth, Australia. The agreement will initially be valid for two years, after which a formal review will be conducted.

Prof Maritz says the relationship between the two organisations will be characterised by collaboration, goodwill, a professional approach, cooperation and the constant pursuit of excellence.

He added: "Our activities will be conducted with respect for each other's systems of work, structures, culture and values, and will support operations being carried out in an effective and integrated manner. To measure the progress and success of the agreement, we will meet

annually to review the understanding and to identify opportunities to strengthen the relationship."

The AIB and UP have agreed to exchange information relevant to the development of the building and construction management profession in Australia and South Africa in order to facilitate an understanding of each other's work.

This will include the following:

- Forwarding information distributed to their respective organisations, such as magazines and newsletters, to a liaison officer nominated by each organisation.
- Promoting each other's jointly organised continuing professional development events on both organisations' respective websites.

- Promoting the agreement on their respective websites, including a link from each website to the other party's website.
- Establishing annual formal contact to review the agreements and identify opportunities to strengthen the relationship

Both organisations are eager to enter into additional agreements to support collaborative activities and enhance their commitment to the construction management profession. "Our aim is to promote the value of membership to professional institutes, and student and graduate engagement in student groups and industry, as well as to encourage research in the field of construction management," says Prof Maritz. 📍