

SEMINAR AND WORKSHOP ON BAMBOO CONSTRUCTION IN PERU

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Some of the Latin American Countries such as Colombia, Ecuador, Costa Rica are far advanced on bamboo construction sector. One can see elegant bamboo buildings, pavilions and other various kinds of bamboo constructions in these countries. *Bahareque* and *Quincha*¹ houses are popular among the people, which are there since long period of time as a part of the culture. However, Peru is still behind in using bamboo for construction purpose. To make aware about bamboo housing and to share experiences from different countries, a seminar and a workshop on “seismic resistance construction of bamboo” was conducted in Lima, Peru from September 29 to October 4. The seminar and workshop was jointly organised by SUSTENTA (NGO), SENCICO (National Service for Normalisation, Training and research for the construction industry) and INBAR. Minister of Housing, Construction and Sanitation of Peru inaugurated the seminar. Dr Ian Hunter, Director General of INBAR, Cesar Alva Dextre, President of SENCICO and Dra. Josefina Takahashi, president of SUSTENTA also delivered speech during the opening ceremony. About 40 participants from Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Argentina and Germany and INBAR attended the event.



Various architects, engineers and professionals presented their works and experiences on bamboo construction including the architects Oscar Hidalgo López from Colombia and Jorge Moran Ubidia from Ecuador. The 2 days seminar was followed by the 4 days construction workshop, which was led by Arch. Jorge Moran, co-representative of INBAR for Latin America Office in Ecuador. The workshop was divided into theory and practical sessions. Theory session mainly focused on bamboo management, bamboo preservation, construction systems and jointing. A demonstration bamboo structure was constructed during the workshop as a part of practical session. Participants evaluated the workshop as very useful event with excellent organisation.

¹ *Bahreque* and *Quincha* are the traditional bamboo building (wall) systems in Latin American countries. There are two types; hollow and solid. In solid type, horizontal bamboo laths are fixed on both sides of culms or timber frame and the space is filled with mud. In hollow type, *estrilla* (flattened bamboo) is fixed both sides of culm and is plastered with mud or cement mortar.



