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INTERNATIONAL USER GROUP: BACKGROUND PAPER FOR DISCUSSION

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Background

Vision, mission and goals - buildingSMART International

buildingSMART International approved in May their Strategic Plan 2010-2011.

Vision

- Sustainability by building SMARTER

Mission

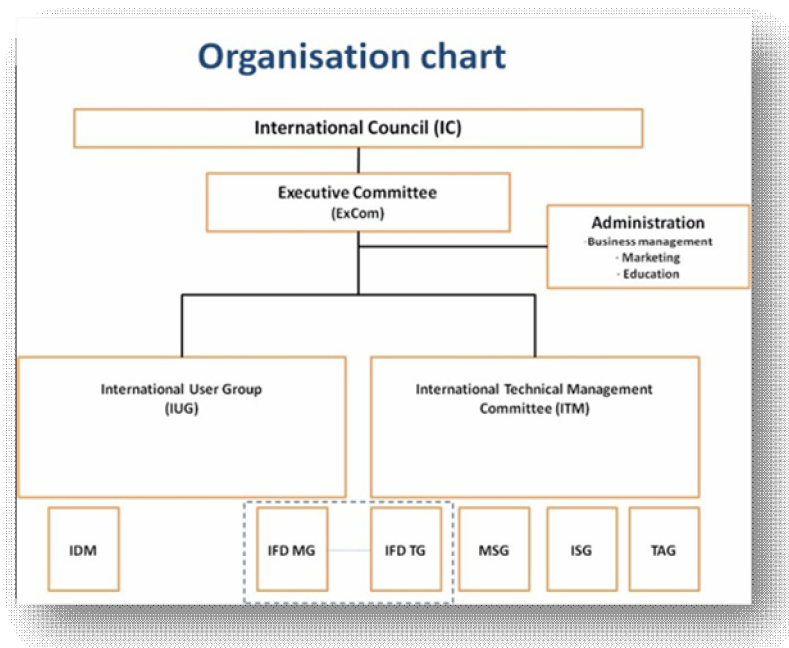
- Contribute to sustainable built environment through SMARTER information sharing and communication using open international standards in the building and construction sector, private and public.

Goals

- Develop and maintain open international standards for Building Information Modeling (Open BIM)
- Accelerate market assimilation of interoperability through successful sustainable projects
- Provide networking opportunities, specifications and written guidance.
- Resolve high cost problems that hinder data sharing.
- Extend buildingSMART processes and technology to the whole built environment, over its lifecycle, and encompassing leadership, production, facilities management and engineering maintenance.

Organisation chart

Function and structure for International Council (IC) and Executive Committee (ExCom) are defined in the Articles of Association. The Articles gives IC the power to establish standing committees. There are two standing committees today: International Technical Management Committee (ITM) and International User Group (IUG). The standing committees can establish sub-committees and working groups.



Why establish an operational International User Group?

International Technical Management Committee (ITM) has been long time operational. Since 2008 we have been trying to organize the work in the International User Group (IUG). Establishing the IUG is work in progress. This document will discuss what actions are needed in order to have a well functional IUG driven by real users of buildingSMART compliant software tools and processes.

Charter User Group

In 2008 Jan Karlshøj drafted a User Group charter that has been discussed in International Council. This should be updated as soon we establish at operational group. Highlights from The Charter are:

Role of the International User Group (IUG)

It is the aim of the International User Group and the Regional User Groups to promote and stimulate use of buildingSMART deliverables in order to improve interoperability in the construction industry, and to share experiences among its members in a bi-directional way in which there is a balance between giving and taking.

The International User Group (IUG) reports to the International Council (IC). The International User Group is lead by the International User Group Chair.

Mission

The User Group has two main objectives:

- **Operational issues:** Improve interoperability based buildingSMART solutions in construction, operation, maintenance, and facility management industries and thereby related educational activities.
- **Strategic and tactical:** By collecting views on strategic and tactical priorities regarding interoperability from clients and the industry. Gain critical mass in the industry and among clients to influence acceptance of buildingSMART based solution by commercial companies, authorities and other relevant organizations

Main focus areas:

- **Sharing experiences** with other members of buildingSMART is an important purpose of the group, as well, as it is a prerequisite for supporting other buildingSMART activities, like contributing to development of Information Delivery Manuals (IDM), Model View Definitions (MVD) etc. The User Group should stimulate its members to play an active role and act as a community, in which problems, questions, tips etc. should be exchanged and answered. Software vendors are welcome to provide information in relation to buildingSMART related issues.
- **Information Delivery Manuals (IDM) and Guidelines:** The User Group should take part in development and coordination of IDM and user orientated guidelines as much as possible according to the available resources.
- **Specifications:** Stimulate necessary extensions to the buildingSMART deliverables (like IFC) by specifying content to IDMs and motivating involvement from the industry in making IDM. The User Group should provide input to decisions regarding the content and release cycle of the buildingSMART deliverables.
- **Data:** Stimulate members to share data (models, configuration etc.) among members but still respect ownership of the data.
- **Publish:** The User Group should publish results, guidelines and other relevant material as wide as possible and as a minimum on the buildingSMART web site.

Membership in IUG

All members of buildingSMART can join the Regional User Groups. A fee for participating in the groups can be collected by the regional buildingSMART organizations. Typical members of the Regional User Group are from organizations (private, public and universities), who are solely or mainly

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using buildingSMART deliverables in their production, like using IFC for data exchange between IFC compatible software products

Members of IUG (not a part of the charter)

- One appointed delegate from a Regional User Groups in each chapter. In total 15 delegates.
- 1 delegate - IFD Library Management Group
- 1 delegate - IDM coordinator
- Members of Usercom

Members of Usercom (not a part of the charter)

After the model of Excom for IC, ITM has established a board called Techcom that will work between meetings. There will therefore be sensible to establish something similar for IUG – **Usercom**.

Members of Usercom are:

- IUG Chairman
- Product Manager (liaison)
- IDM coordinator
- Leader IFD MG
- 2 Chapter representatives

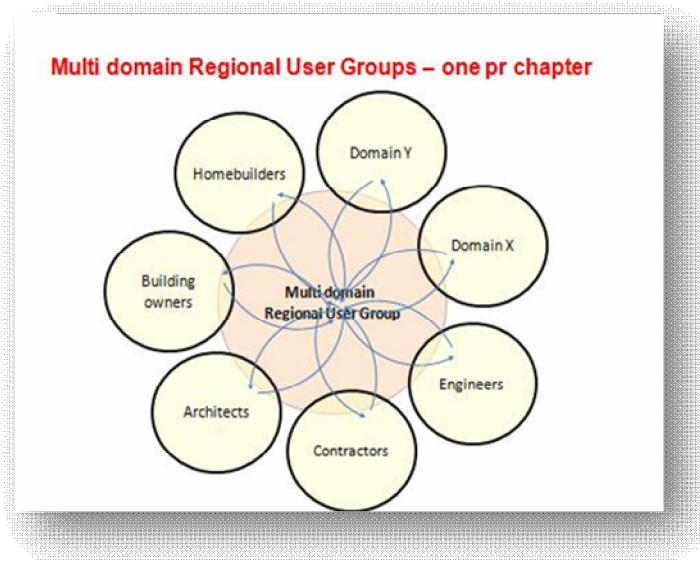
Members of UserCom are elected at the annual IUG-meeting.

Multi domain Regional User Groups

There are 15 chapters in buildingSMART International

1. Australasia
2. Benelux
3. China
4. French Sp
5. German Sp
6. Iberia
7. Italy
8. Japan
9. Korea
10. Middle East
11. Nordic
12. North American
13. Singapore
14. UK
15. Norway

Many chapters have already operational interest/user groups based on domain or geography. Excom encourage anyway every chapter to establish a formal Regional User Group. Among the members of the Regional User Groups, should the chapter appoint one delegate to IUG.



Output Multi Domain Regional User Groups

User Group activities are mainly based on local projects and experiences. It is therefore important to engage users on a local level. Many users have common experiences of use of software and processes in “real life” building projects. In order to bring local experiences to the table, the buildingSMART organization should facilitate meetings and arenas where problems and challenges are discussed.

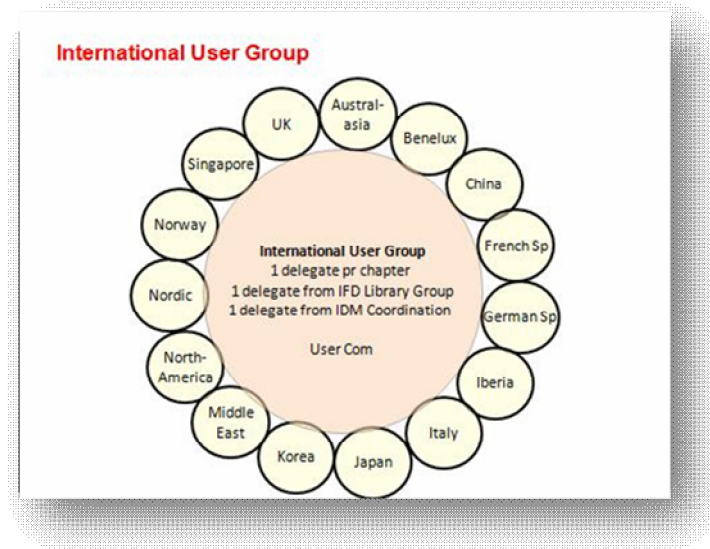
Output from a Regional User Group could be:

- Share experiences
- Input to national standards, IDMs, specs...
- Appoint delegate to IUG
- Input to local software vendors
- Input content IFD Library
- Input to agenda and discussions in IUG
- ...
- ...

Setting up the International User Group

The International User Group should be the arena where appointed delegates from the regional user groups should meet to discuss and make official resolutions on important issues for users of buildingSMART compliant software and processes. The resolutions will be based on input from the regional user group.

Before the International User Group will be fully operational, there is important that each chapter appoint a delegate from a user community, and establish a regional user group.



There have been organised two IUG meetings, in Washington DC (December 2009) and in Korea (April 2010). Both of them reflect that the IUG still have a way to go regarding the organizational.

IUG #1 Washington DC

The first IUG meeting was held in Washington DC December 8th 2009. The meeting made the following resolutions:

Resolution 1-1: IUG recommends IC to extend user group membership to achieve a global view to strengthen IUG's capacity to act as a *strategic advisor* to IC.

Resolution 1-2: IUG requests IC to address the *certification of processes* used today - BIM for a specific purpose - as a crucial validation layer.

Resolution 1-3: IUG recommends IC ensure the *creation of IDMs shall be a priority*.

Resolution 1-4: IUG recommends IC to expand IFD & IFC to cover more widely the built environment.

Resolution 1-5: IUG requests IC to invite Chapters to nominate a *voting UG representative*. Chapter UG representatives shall be from the real user community (stakeholders etc. rather than elected officials from Chapter); shall be as inclusive as possible, motivated, representing many areas such as fabricators, regulators etc.; and from both horizontal and vertical organisational types. A suggested *UG organizational model*: city/regional based, domain based, chairs form a national UG, who decide an IUG representative.

Resolution 1-6: IUG recommends IC to undertake the development of *User Guides* (ENG initially) to inform users of technical and organisational aspects of the deployment of IFC based tools.

Resolution 1-7: IUG recommends IC to raise awareness of the *IUG and Chapter User Groups*

Resolution 1-8: IUG recommends IC request ExCom to update the *IUG Charter document* with changes from this meeting; distribute immediately to all Chapters, request their reviews by 30 Jan 2010, analyse comments and present a final document for adoption at the Korea Summit April 2010.

IUG #2 Seoul

The Korea meeting was amputated because of the volcanic ash from Iceland that implicated that none of the Europeans were able to attend. There were not made any formal resolutions from that meeting.

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Master schedule IC and Excom meetings

IC meets in spring every year. The meetings shall alternate between North-America, Europe and Asia. ExCom has weekly telephone/Internet meetings, have four in person meetings a year. The Standing Committees must send resolution to IC to ExCom 56 days in advance of the IC meeting.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
IC												
ExCom		Virtual			In person				In person		Virtual	
ITM			*									
IUG			*									Optional
ISG			*									
IFD			*									
Advisory board												Optional
*	Resolution for IC in May due to be sent to ExCom 56 days before IC meeting											

Master schedule for IUG meetings

IUG must send resolutions to Excom 56 days before IC meeting. IUG must establish routines of how often they should meet and how to follow up resolutions.

Actions towards Denmark

Excom is responsible to establish IUG, and to make sure that IUG has a leadership including an IUG-chairman. To make this happen, Excom established a task force to prepare for the Copenhagen meeting.

An interim Usercom is established

Based on discussions with people that have knowledge of User needs and interest in IUG, we suggest the following composition of the Interim Usercom.

Members of Interim UserCom

- Jøns Sjøgren - leader (On behalf of Excom until IUG Chair is elected)
- Bjørn Stangeland, Product Manager (liaison)
- Jan Karlshøj, IDM coordinator
- Jacob Mehus, Leader IFD MG
- Tom Gay, buildingSMART North America
- Alain Maury, buildingSMART French speaking chapter
- Deke Smith, Executive Director, buildingSMART Alliance
- Steen Sunesen, Managing Director, buildingSMART Norway

Telecons

Usercom has planned 3 Telecons in order to make necessary preparations for the IUG meeting in Copenhagen

- July 2nd
- August 10th
- September 1st

How to reach the chapters and regional user groups?

- Which chapters have something that reminds of a regional user group?
- Who are the different contact persons in the chapters?
- How to get the chapter to appoint delegates to the Copenhagen meeting?

Other actions/questions?

There are many things to discuss/address for the Interim Usercom. Here is a list:

- Produce guidelines for how to establish regional user groups
- Make agenda for Denmark
- Decide date for IUG meeting in Denmark (Wednesday Sept 8th?)
- Expected output for Denmark meeting
- What is the difference between an IUG meeting with delegates and more operative user groups?
- What kind of resolutions should be made at IUG in Denmark
- Does the IUG Charter need to be changed
- Review resolutions from WDC and Korea
- What should the requested budget be for IUG-activities?