GlobalABC Newsletter
March 2020

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News from the GlobalABC Secretariat

GlobalABC Website - Brand new face!
The GlobalABC website has a new face! Thanks to an additional contribution of France, our website has been revamped, featuring new pages and functions, informing about GlobalABC and member activities and encouraging members and partners to engage. We invite everyone to explore it as much as possible and send us your feedback.

Visit now
2020 GlobalABC Assembly

The 2020 Annual assembly of the GlobalABC allowed for experiencing a new format, online, with almost 70 participants. Many thanks to all of you for taking part in two days of vibrant interaction and exchange, proving that distance can be abolished, ideas exchanges and decisions taken. We had the pleasure of exchanging with Nigel Topping, the Climate Champion, and meeting his team. The two days allowed for meeting new members, reporting on last year’s achievements, looking forward and presenting the workplan and work areas activities, communicating and keeping spirits high in these difficult times. Please find below the links to the videos of the Assembly.

Watch here

GlobalABC member & buildings news

Changes in building and construction have great potential to slow global warming

Most of us spend a large chunk of our lives in one building or another, but have you ever stopped to consider the greenhouse gases linked to the construction of these buildings?

Read the latest UNEP story and learn more about the opportunities that material efficiency strategies present to reduce carbon emissions in homes.

Read article
5 Ways to Optimize Buildings for COVID-19 Prevention

Buildings are a place for people and as such, they must consider the health and well-being of its users. The Center for Active Design has put together a short list of ways in which buildings can be optimized for COVID-19 prevention. Check out the link below!

Read more

Staying Cool in A Warming Climate: Temperature, Electricity and Air Conditioning in Saudi Arabia

As global temperatures warm and populations and incomes rise, the demand for cooling will soar, creating a positive feedback loop between global warming and electricity-related carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions. This study explores the relationship between temperature, electricity, air conditioning (AC) and CO2 emissions, and the sustainability of cooling in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Read more

[PEEB new paper] NATIONAL ALLIANCES FOR BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION: Long-term partnerships for the energy transition

This recently launched PEEB report shows how national alliances can help speeding up the energy transition in the building sector. It demonstrates their potential and importance in working for the transition towards low emission, resilient and efficient buildings. The report explores the experiences of five national alliances in France, Germany, Mexico, Morocco and Tunisia, and gives recommendations for establishing new ones.

PEEB will host a webinar to present key findings of the paper on April 22, 2020. For more information, check "Upcoming Events" in this newsletter.

Read full paper

GlobalABC 'building passport' among 20 most exciting proptech innovations

RICS is leading on a project within the Global Alliance of Buildings and Construction to develop a framework for a "building passport" - a data platform that could host all building-related data, from design and planning through to demolition. It would provide market stakeholders, among them financing institutions, investors, insurers, policymakers, owners and operators, with access to information to help them assess the many factors affecting the overall quality and performance of buildings.

Read more
[IEA new report] The Future of Cooling in Southeast Asia

Space cooling is the fastest-growing use of energy in buildings globally and in Southeast Asia. Electricity use for cooling in buildings across the region has increased dramatically over past decades. Yet today, only 15% of households in Southeast Asia have an air conditioner, indicating significant potential for further growth in major markets.

Efficient space cooling doesn’t depend on ACs alone, efficient building design would be crucial to preserve the gains of efficient AC units. Building envelope improvements, enforced through codes, standards, and mandatory retrofits would help in ensuring that buildings become efficient as well.


This report details how the use of consumer information tools can support greenhouse gas emission reductions in three industry sectors: tourism, buildings and food. Consumer information covers a range of tools and systems that seek to guide consumers to make more sustainable choices about goods and services (products), including in their use and end of life phase.

Report: Defining and contextualizing the E1st principle

Efficiency First is not just another name for energy efficiency. It is a decision-making tool that explicitly and systematically considers demand-side alternatives before locking in new supply-side infrastructure. A report — led by RAP for the Horizon 2020 project enefirst — dives deep into Efficiency First and its critical role in the energy transition, offering options for its practical application in the EU.

Survey: Help enefirst consortium identify barriers to E1st implementation. Enefirst is an H2020-funded project that seeks to provide the EU with a common vision of the principle of E1st and a holistic pathway to achieving it, embedded across our energy system models, impact assessments, funding and infrastructure decisions, and into all energy and climate policies.
Take the survey [in this link](#).

### Climate Positive Now!

The DGNB German Sustainable Building Council has released its newest publication called "Climate positive: now!". It shows how every building can make a contribution to climate protection and offers assistance in the form of pragmatic and practical implementation. It provides background information on why the construction and real estate sector plays a central role in climate action and why a paradigm shift is needed in the way we treat our buildings.

Read more

### Business models for green buildings: real estate actors around the globe show the way

Green buildings are already on the way to becoming global practice for residential and non-residential buildings. Real estate actors around the globe have developed business models to build profitable businesses around green buildings - this publication serves as a reference for actors along the green building value chain to adapt and expand their activities. Learn more in the link below.

Read report

### Calls, Initiatives & Funding

#### NDC Support Facility - funding opportunity for cooling

[Proposals by 26 June] Launched in January 2020, the NDC Support Facility for Efficient, Climate-Friendly Cooling (NDC Facility) provides funding and guidance to organizations to support governments that want to integrate cooling solutions into the next round of their country's Nationally Determined
Learn more

Contributions (NDCs), which are expected to culminate at the 2020 UNFCCC climate negotiations (COP26) in Glasgow. It has up to US$12 million available for technical assistance (TA) to improve access to and the efficiency of cooling in developing countries. Proposals are due by 26 June 2020. To learn more about how to apply for funding, click on the link below.

24TH INTERNATIONAL PASSIVE HOUSE CONFERENCE 2020 - Submit your abstract

Call for Papers! - 24th International Passive House Conference (20/21 September 2020)

The Call for Papers for the 24th International Passive House Conference in Berlin, Germany is open until 2 March 2020. Everybody is welcome to submit a Passive House related abstract and become a part of the exciting and instructive conference programme.

Learn more

WorldGBC Online Case Study Library

WorldGBC’s interactive digital case study library map showcases some of the world’s most cutting-edge sustainable buildings. Launched in November 2019, it recognizes the growing market demand to highlight the ‘best in class’ buildings that excel in key areas of sustainability, and the role of certification schemes to provide third party assurance of performance. Click the button below to learn how to submit a case.

Learn more

Upcoming buildings and construction events
[22 April] WEBINAR - National Alliances for Buildings and Construction: Long-term partnerships for the energy transition

A webinar to present and discuss the findings is upcoming on April 22 – please register by sending an email to helen.naser@giz.de and karolin.basten@giz.de

Would you like to see your organizations events featured in the next GlobalABC newsletter or on the GlobalABC website? Send us your updates at global.abc@un.org.

GlobalABC Flagship Products

2019 Global Status Report

Executive Summaries in other languages in this link.

Read full report

A Guide for Incorporating Buildings Actions in the NDCs

A first edition designed to address the urgent need for further extending the scope and ambition of building sector actions in NDCs. Developed with and through GlobalABC member countries.

Read full report

GlobalABC Global Roadmap

This Roadmap describes the main goals and steps for a transformation towards a zero-emission, efficient, and resilient buildings and construction sector. The GlobalABC is regionalizing the Roadmap for Africa, Asia, and Latin America

Read full report

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