Environmental Ethics and Buildings
Tomonari Yashiro and Sandy Halliday

The breakout session will discuss focusing on following questions.

1 What kind of plain and clear principle(s) of environmental ethics could we share in the global/local community?

The process of building design, construction and operation is socio-economically, and technologically complicated process. The process is composed of a set of activities by various agents and links between the activities. The agents includes such as clients, residents, architects, engineers, contractors, suppliers, banking facilities, insurance company, asset managers, property managers, facility managers, operators, maintenance team, etc. Each activity is defined and controlled by conscious or unconscious code of conduct by each agent. Code of conduct of each agent is quite independent and can be varied by cultural, historical, social, religious context around the agent as well as by business and professional environment.

If each agent should have unconscious and/or contradicted code of conduct from the aspect of environmental ethics, a set of activities as a component of whole building related process could be fragmented and/or disastrous for global sustainability. In order to avoid or at least mitigate such a fragmented and/or disastrous set of activities, agents need to share plain and clear principle(s) of environmental ethics.

Based on contribution by delegates, the breakout session will try to identify what kind of plain and clear principle(s) of environmental ethics we could share in the global/local community.

2 How could we share the principle(s)? / How could we manage collective process based on the principle(s)?

Even if we can share the plain and clear principle(s) of environmental ethics, we need to bridge between the principle and action. Building project has unique technical and socio-economic conditions and constrains. Priority of targeted environmental performance could be varied, therefore agent committed in the project need to create its own define priority based on the shared principle. However, relevance of priority and principle could be differentiated because of technologically and socio-economically entangled complicatedness and interdependency of building process.

In order to keep consistency between actual decision making with defined priority and code of conduct defined by shared principle of environmental ethics, some instruments

need to be introduced to assist decision making by agents involved in building process. Technical manuals and technical guideline could contribute to realize the consistency among agents. However, respecting on ever-changing and project-specific interdependency of building process, more fundamental but it is needed to develop the method that assist agents to create more consistent and well conscious solution based on shared principle.

Therefore, we need to discuss on how, by what kind of 'instruments' could building team share to meet with the principle. In other words we would like to debate how we could manage the process of collective decision making if we wish less-unsustainable built environment.

It is quite welcome case based papers that involves

- Trials in education

- Actual initiative to activate environmental ethical principle in building practice

- Lessons from best/ better practices