



# Windsor Conference 2012

## Report

The Seventh Windsor Conference 2012 on comfort and energy use in buildings was called *The changing context of comfort in an unpredictable world* and was held from 12-15<sup>th</sup> of April at Cumberland Lodge in Windsor Great Park. This year's meeting was the largest so far with more than 100 delegates from 19 countries, of whom about 80 stayed at the Lodge.

81 papers were submitted of which 72 were presented, 50 with extended presentations and the rest delivered with a short presentation and a poster. Six themed sessions were held on *The complexity of comfort, Schools and non-domestic buildings, Domestic buildings, Over-heating and climate change, Comfort in hot climates and Comfort models and outdoor comfort*".

The conference opened with an after-dinner presentation on Thursday by Prof Shin Ichi Tanabe of Waseda University in Tokyo who described the problems of energy availability following the Japanese earthquake of 2011. The after-dinner speaker on the Friday evening was Andy Ford, president of CIBSE, who dwelt on the problems for building professionals in today's building market. On the final day Prof Wouter van Marken Lichtenbelt, of the Maastricht University Medical Centre in the Netherlands gave a fascinating keynote address on developments in Thermal Physiology.

In a departure from previous conferences there were four workshops which included short paper presentations followed by discussions on the topics of: *Standards for the indoor environment, Designing comfortable buildings for the future, Personal control in office buildings and How to make low energy buildings that really work*. These workshops were marked by lively debates on key issues of the day.

The Cumberland Lodge conference centre affords comfortable accommodation and excellent food in an isolated part of the beautiful Windsor Great Park. This means that the delegates can relax in each other's company and discuss research problems and collaborations almost without distraction.

As one delegate put it: "Without doubt, it is the best conference I know of for its high-powered debate and intimate discussion of crucial issues. The papers were really interesting, the venue and food was superb, and the company was outstanding."

More details about the conference can be found at our website [nceub.org.uk](http://nceub.org.uk)

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