



# STANDING TALL

+ DAVID SCOTT, CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL ON TALL BUILDINGS AND URBAN HABITAT (CTBUH) AND PRINCIPAL OF ARUP, TALKS TO JAMES BOLEY ABOUT DUBAI AND ITS UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP WITH TALL BUILDINGS.

**MEA: The eighth CTBUH World Congress takes place in Dubai from 3–5 March and is the first one to be held in the Arab world. Why here? Why now?**

**DS:** We've been talking about a conference in Dubai ever since the Burj Dubai was announced and we decided now was a good time to come. The Burj is largely complete. It would be good for our members to see it. The Burj has certainly changed the whole landscape of very tall buildings.

**MEA: How has it changed that landscape?**

**DS:** Before, building height crept up incrementally, so you had Petronas Towers, and then Taipei 101. The Burj has gone more than 50% taller, so there is a very large

interest in what is happening. People now realise these towers all had self-imposed limits, and if someone really wants to go taller, there is an opportunity to do so.

**MEA: In November 2007, a new mandate for 'green' buildings was introduced in Dubai. How does that relate to holding a congress on sustainable urban features?**

**DS:** The Council is a not-for-profit organisation that discusses and conveys to our members best-practice about the issues of the day. In the last 5-10 years, sustainability has become the major issue both for users and developers. It's probably the most significant issue for all our members.

Some of the things happening in Dubai are very interesting and people will copy

them, as people copy all good ideas and build upon them. That's what this conference is about, to spread knowledge and information.

**MEA: The Burj Dubai uses 10,000 tonnes of cooling energy an hour. How does that fit with tall buildings being sustainable?**

**DS:** There is a large concentration of people in a building like the Burj Dubai. I don't know how sustainable the Burj is, but a residential building will use substantially less energy than an office building and this will be the tallest residential building in the world.

You can either expand cities laterally or vertically. Without a doubt, there is a place for tall buildings. The Burj Dubai is a very important building for the world and for Dubai. To some degree, it changes the status of Dubai.

