

## Closing remarks for PHN17 website 4.10.2017 Riikka Holopainen, VTT

We have had a long history of Nordic passive house conferences starting from 2008 in Trondheim, Norway. These conferences have produced plenty of excellent papers and a good conversation arena between many countries, not just Nordic countries. Even though we have had different, country-specific passive house definitions, the discussions have always been in a good spirit and we have honoured each other's opinions.

The conference series started as a tangible result of the Letter of Intent signed by 12 Nordic actors: ATON Teknikkonsult AB, SBI/Aalborg Universitetet, David N. Benjamin, Husbanken Region Midt-Norge, IVL Svenska Miljöinstitutet AB, Lunds tekniska Högskola, Energi och ByggnadsDesign, Passivhuscentrum, Passivhus.dk, SINTEF, Sveriges Tekniska Forskningsinstitut AB, Tampere University of technology and VTT. In this Letter of Intent the Vision and Mission for the co-operation were stated as:

Vision:

*Grundarnas gemensamma vision är ett ökat byggande av energieffektiva byggnader och energieffektiv renovering av befintliga byggnader i Norden för ett kontinuerligt minskat energibehov i fastighetsbeståndet, och att sådana byggnader skall utgöra marknadens förstahandsval.*

(In English: The common vision of the establishers is to increase construction of energy-efficient buildings and energy-efficient renovation of existing buildings in the Nordic region for a continuously reducing energy demand of the building sector and that these kind buildings will be the primary choice in the market.)

Mission:

*Grundarnas gemensamma avsikt är att nå denna vision genom att inom Passivhus Norden samverka och koordinera de nationella och lokala aktiviteterna inom området passivhus och energieffektiva byggnader:*

- *Initiera och genomföra gemensamma forsknings- och utvecklingsprojekt*
- *Gemensamt verka för en fortsatt kunskapsuppbyggnad kring energieffektiva byggnader och att erfarenheter från genomförda projekt sprids inom hela Norden*
- *Samordna standard, definitioner och begrepp för passivhus och energieffektiva byggnader*
- *Verka för en samordnad kommersiell Nordisk plattform för att få marknaden för produkter och system för energieffektiva byggnader att växa*

(In English: the common intention of the establishers is to reach this vision through the Passivhus Norden initiative by co-operation and coordination of national and local activities in the field of passive houses and energy-efficient buildings:

- To initiate and operate common research and development projects
- To act together for a continuous knowledge increase around energy-efficient buildings and to spread experiences from projects to the whole Nordic Region
- To coordinate standards, definitions and terms for passive houses and energy-efficient buildings
- To act for a coordinated commercial Nordic platform for increasing the market of products and systems for energy-efficient buildings)

These vision and mission, formulated nearly 10 years ago, are still valid for today. The conference has now been arranged eight times: twice in each organizing country: Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland. We

are now using new terms for energy-efficient buildings, such as nearly zero-energy buildings, zero-carbon buildings and even plus-energy buildings besides passive houses. The scope has also widened from one building to district-level perspective. Now is the right time to move forward and renew.

It is therefore recommended to find a more suitable name for the conference series to attract even more participants and to ensure the continuity of the conference series. Also the contents and structure of the conference could be boldly reviewed taking the demands of the scientific community and construction industry as the starting point. The panel discussion at PHN17 was the first step to this direction. We should keep and increase our ambition to accelerate the transformation towards a carbon-neutral building sector. I hope that this dialogue will continue between the Nordic countries guided by Norway as the organizing party of the next conference.

On my behalf I want to thank warmly all participants, key note speakers and exhibitors including Helsinki City for hosting the pleasant city reception. I have had the pleasure of joining the organizing committee now for the second time with the Finnish Association of Building Engineers RIL, who has again proven to be an excellent organizer and reliable partner. The picture below shows happy participants from the interesting conference excursion to outstanding Finnish examples of energy-efficient construction.