

ConsultA

ACEI Newsletter - 28 April 2022

Information and Advice for ACEI Members



ACEI President's Opening Address

I was deeply honoured to have been elected as President of the Association of Consulting Engineers of Ireland by you, the members, at our recent AGM. I am the 60th President of the ACEI and the 5th member of the Garland family to be honoured with the role and I hope I will live up to their extremely high standards.

At the outset, I want to thank our outgoing President David McHugh for his work over the last number of years as a member of executive, officer and president.

As you are all aware, the members of executive and committees give tirelessly of their time and expertise, for which my thanks are due. The ACEI is always looking for others to assist with various committees, so if a call does come, please do look favourably on the request.

The executive, with the assistance of the secretariat, is continuing with many recent initiatives on behalf of members. One key focus for this year will be the implementation of the recommendations of the "Bridging the Gap" report, which was shared with you last month. We will also continue to focus on supporting members in the Pledge to Net Zero. With the help of the secretariat and executive, I also intend to grow the membership of the Association by 20% from the current level of 102 member firms.

Arising from the announcement last week, I want to congratulate the companies who had projects shortlisted for the ACEI 2022 Annual Engineering Excellence Awards. Although many applications were received overall, we were disappointed to note the comparatively low number of entries in the Project Management category. As this is an area of expertise that engineers traditionally excel in, I would encourage all members to look for projects to enter in next year's Project Management award.

We are due to meet with the Department of Agriculture this week on the issues of forestry and timber supply. The lack of supply of domestic timber has led to a doubling of the price of timber and is affecting the delivery of housing. I was shocked to learn recently that planting is currently at its lowest level since 1946. This is just one of many engagements the Association undertakes with stakeholders on your behalf. In 2021 we met or interacted with 15 different organisations on a total of 27 occasions.

Finally, with Covid receding, I look forward to meeting as many members as possible during the coming year and would welcome you to contact me through the ACEI Office, info@acei.ie.

Brian Kavanagh
ACEI President 2022-2023

Online Resources

- [HSE](#)
- [Revenue](#)
- [Institute of Public Health](#)
- [Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection](#)
- [Health & Safety Authority](#)
- [World Health Organisation](#)
- [Centre for Disease Control](#)
- [Health Protection Surveillance Centre](#)
- [Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade](#)

ACEI 2022 Engineering Excellence Awards

Congratulations to the ACEI Member Firms and their projects that have been shortlisted in this year's [Engineering Excellence Awards](#) across nine categories. The award winners will be announced at the ACEI Awards Dinner on Friday, 2 September 2022 in the Shelbourne Hotel, Dublin 2. Further details and booking information will be provided nearer the time.

ACEI Annual General Meeting

The ACEI 2022 Annual General Meeting was a successful virtual event held on Friday 25 March. As well as the usual agenda items, a motion brought to members by the Sustainability Committee to include sustainability and environmental aspirations in sections 2.1 and 2.3 within the ACEI Code of Conduct, was approved. The updated Code is available for review [here](#).

Also at the AGM, the [Executive Board 2022-23](#) was elected including new members Ciarán McGovern, TOBIN and Marc Jones, Roughan & O'Donovan. Congratulations to all Executive members especially the ACEI officers: President, Brian Kavanagh; 1st Vice-President, James Kavanagh; 2nd Vice-President, Anne Marie Conibear; Honorary Secretary, Michael O'Reilly and Honorary Treasurer, Donnachadh O'Brien. We thank David McHugh for all his work as President last year and outgoing Board members Conor McCarthy and Jim Mansfield.

Graduate Development Course

Members are advised that places are still available on the bespoke Graduate Development Course planned over 6 days in May and June. Booking details and further information are available on the on the CPD area of the [ACEI website](#). The course covers a wide variety of areas important for consulting engineering graduates and has a strong emphasis on the technical areas of expertise required in both Civil & Structural and M&E engineering disciplines.

Pledge to Net Zero

The ACEI Executive and Secretariat continue to encourage all members to register for, and commit to, the Pledge to Net Zero (PtNZ) science-based targets. One of consulting engineers' core roles is to advise clients to manage and deliver on environmental challenges, and signing up to PtNZ is a clear way for member firms to show leadership in this area. Further information is available on a dedicated webpage on the [ACEI Website](#). As part of the PtNZ commitment, an upcoming target for those already registered is to provide the firm's science-based target by 15 May 2022.

Recent Good News

- Well done to Sarah Jones, Graduate Environmental Scientist and Planner in member firm Jennings O'Donovan who was recently invited to Trinity College Dublin as a guest lecturer. Sarah provided an interesting presentation on Sustainability and Sustainable Development to students undertaking an introductory course on operations management.
- As part of member firm O'Connor Sutton Cronin's Wellness Programme and in recognition of [National Workplace Wellbeing Day](#), tomorrow, 29 April, staff have been provided with a reviving Yoga class.
- The 3rd edition of ACEI Past-President Dr Nael Bunni's book on "Risk and Insurance in Construction" has recently been published. A [20% discount](#) has been kindly offered by the publishers to ACEI members.
- Munster Technological University (MTU) is offering a €3.5m funding package for early-stage entrepreneurs through the Enterprise Ireland [New Frontiers](#) entrepreneur programme run by MTU's business incubation centre, the Rubicon Centre. Over the next five years hundreds of entrepreneurs will be supported to deliver 75 new companies in the South West Region.

EFCA Newsletter

The April 2022 edition of the [EFCA Newsletter](#) includes information on latest developments in Ukraine and the associated impact on the European built environment sector. In the 'Reports Room' a number of publications are provided including the *Transition Performance Index*. This document ranks EU member states and 45 other countries on their performance during 2011-2020 in four specific transitions: economic, social, environmental and governance.

FIDIC 2022 Project Awards

ACEI encourages member firms to submit their projects for the annual [FIDIC Project Awards](#) which are now open for entries. These awards recognise, highlight, and reward the achievements and successes of consulting engineering member firms across the globe and the important impact their projects have on social, economic, and environmental quality of life around the world. The closing dates for submitting entries to the awards is 15 May 2022.