

ConsultA

ACEI Newsletter - 11 March 2021

Information and Advice for ACEI Members

ACEI Work Arrangements

The ACEI office is temporarily closed. Email info@acei.ie with queries or contact sarah.ingle@acei.ie.

Covid-19 Updates

- [ACEI](#)
- [EFCA](#)
- [FIDIC](#)

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 Annual Conference

The recent ACEI Conference held virtually on 3rd March 2021 was a very successful event. The conference theme, *Delivery where the only Constant is Change*, focused on project delivery in the context of the review of the National Development Plan (NDP) and climate change resilience.

Following an introductory welcome from Conor McCarthy, ACEI President, Michael McGrath TD, Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform provided a keynote address and said that the Government "wants to ensure that we have the appropriate infrastructure to meet the needs of an increased population. This will be challenging, but it is also a great opportunity to imagine and implement a shared vision of building a better Ireland for all its people and for future generations."

The Minister noted that the €116bn in capital investment committed to Project Ireland 2040 demonstrates an important change to previous approaches to long-term planning and investment by Government. Speaking directly to ACEI members he said "As engineering professionals, you are a significant pillar of the construction industry and key to augmenting societal wellbeing and economic progress in our society."

Also acknowledged and addressed by the Minister were the current challenges in relation to Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII) in the sector. He assured delegates that the Government is focused on the need for insurance reform, and is committed to undertake specific actions to address this to ensure that the Irish market is seen as a steady and stable environment where insurers can do business.

The virtual conference, a first for ACEI, was well received by members and other participants. Those registered for the event still have the opportunity to review all six panel sessions and the accompanying presentations from 12 expert speakers on the conference website.

ACEI Sustainability Vision

The recent annual conference was an excellent opportunity to launch the new [ACEI Sustainability Vision](#). Developed by the ACEI Sustainability Committee, the Vision was announced by President Conor McCarthy and launched with more detail by Sustainability Committee member, Gemma McCarthy from Mott MacDonald. ACEI's vision for sustainability is "A future shaped by socially and environmentally responsible design, where true long-term costs and benefits are considered across entire project lifecycles." We look forward to working with members to achieve this vision.

ACEI Annual General Meeting

Members are advised that the ACEI Annual General Meeting will take place at 11.30am – 1pm on Friday 23 April 2021. Save the date in your diaries and an invitation to register will be provided nearer the time.

ACEI Future Leader Award 2021

ACEI recently opened nominations for the 2021 ACEI Future Leader Award. The award will be presented to a consulting engineer with excellent communication skills, business acumen, technical capabilities and strong ethical values. Further information and application details are available on the [ACEI Website](#). The closing date is Thursday 18th March and all suitably qualified engineers aged 35 or under are encouraged to apply.

DSC / PSDP Upcoming Courses

There are a number of DSC and PSDP courses being organised by ACEI in the coming months. These include a DSC / PSDP refresher course for those that have completed both courses previously. Further information and booking details are available at [ACEI CPD+Training](#).

FIDIC Business Bulletin

A new periodic bulletin has been developed by FIDIC to promote current initiatives, including the CEO's Update, State of the World reports and the 2021 live webinar series. Bulletin 1, issued in January 2021, addressed challenges faced by consulting engineering firms with respect to their staff and facilities. [Bulletin 2](#) focuses on new and evolved challenges faced by consulting engineering firms with respect to their internal business cycle and their resulting best practices. The information presented was gathered from senior people in the sector and is intended to be used by industry leaders worldwide.

Short Book Recommendations

A recent article from [ideas.ted.com](#) provides a list of [24 book recommendations](#), each less than 200 pages. The books range over a variety of genres including fiction, literature, history, science, social issues and poetry. A section on graphic novels is also included.

Recent Good News

- In the week celebrating International Women's Day, it is important to note that women now represent [more than 30% of director roles](#) at key firms quoted on the Irish stock exchange.
- The Dept of Public Expenditure and Reform has published a new [three year strategy](#). This sets out objectives that support the delivery of well-managed, well-targeted and sustainable public spending during 2021- 2023.
- The Dept of Transport has announced that funding is being provided for up to 248 new jobs to expand [walking and cycling facilities nationwide](#).
- The city of Dublin has been accepted as one of 16 cities bidding to win the [European Green Capital 2023 Award](#). A panel of independent experts will assess the on the basis of 12 environmental indicators.
- A new edition for Jan / Feb 2021 of the RIAI Journal 'Architecture Ireland' is now available on the [institute's website](#).

Free BIM Coordinators Mentor Programme

Bookings are now being taken for an ArcDox free BIM Coordinators Mentor Programme in April 2021. The course is delivered online, for one hour a day, over 10 days during 12 - 23 April Registrations are now being [accepted here](#). ArcDox directors Ralph Montague and Patrick Slattery will share 12 years of experience with AEC professionals who wish to advance their business, or career, in digital construction.

CSG Innovation and Digital Adoption

Members are encouraged to follow the Construction Sector Group's (CSG) Innovation and Digital Adoption for Construction sub-group on [LinkedIn](#). ACEI Secretary General Sarah Ingle is leading one of seven priority actions related to promoting relevant Research & Development funding in the Irish built environment sector. There will be exciting opportunities for ACEI member firms to develop innovative activities in the coming months and years within the CSG programme. The CSG sub-group is chaired by previous ACEI member PJ Rudden.