

ConsultA

ACEI Newsletter - 20 May 2021

Information and Advice for ACEI Members

ACEI President's Opening Address



I am honoured to have been elected as President of the Association at our recent AGM. I have had the privilege to have served on the Executive Board with five Presidents since joining it and have been incredibly impressed by their stewardship of, and their dedication to, the Association.

In his closing remarks, our immediate Past President, Conor McCarthy, described a year of exceptional challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. I am grateful to him for the excellent leadership he provided over the past year and I am also optimistic, as we have witnessed the full remobilisation of the construction sector over the past few weeks, under the Government reopening plan, *The Path Ahead*.

Working with the Executive Board and the Secretariat, over the coming year I intend to maintain the Association's focus on the topics that I believe will have most impact for member firms. These have been informed by the ACEI Strategy 2018 – 2021, with its objectives of *being a trusted and visible organisation, providing services to members and delivering organisational development*. Guided by this strategy I will champion the following three priorities:

ACEI will continue to **advocate on behalf of member firms**, on the issues that impact our businesses. This includes specific challenges such as professional indemnity insurance (PII), which has rapidly moved up the list of industry concerns. The issues include not just the cost and availability of PII, but also the broader question of contractual liability and the increasingly onerous terms that are being imposed on Consultants. We are also advocating for procurement processes that are genuinely focused on Consultant quality. For many years now, there has been continued pressure on professional fees, which makes it difficult for us to attract and retain the best people into the industry. Addressing this challenge remains a top priority for the Association.

These specific concerns of ACEI member firms are being addressed by **promoting the industry and our profession**. We have been engaging with the senior leaders of our client organisations, highlighting ACEI members' value proposition and the full range of value-adding services that we can deliver, which focus on meeting their needs. An important part of this activity is the policy work we are engaged in, including submissions to Government departments on the annual budget, National Development Plan (NDP) and other infrastructure / investment plans. This is very effective in terms of increasing our reach and relevance and we consistently receive positive feedback on these submissions.

I will continue to support the Association's **commitment to climate action**. ACEI launched its Sustainability Vision earlier this year, which was an important milestone. It included commitments to advocating for urgent action; innovating to develop appropriately resilient infrastructure; implementing well-designed, environmentally sound solutions; and leading by example. This latter commitment set the aspiration that our member firms achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. A significant body of work lies ahead, developing an implementation roadmap with supporting material for member firms on this journey. While driving these priorities over the coming year, I am looking forward to engaging with the FConsEI and RConsEI members, and other staff from our member firms. I am interested to hear about the challenges faced and the successes achieved, so please do feel free to contact me through the ACEI office.

David McHugh
ACEI President 2021-2022

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 Executive Board 2021-2022

A new ACEI Executive Board 2021-2022 was elected at the recent AGM held virtually on 23 April 2021. Outgoing President Conor McCarthy congratulated incoming President David McHugh, along with the other members and wished them well in their roles. The new officers are:

President: [David McHugh, RPS](#)
1st Vice-President: Brian Kavanagh, Garland
2nd Vice-President
& Honorary Treasurer: James Kavanagh, Varming
Honorary Secretary: Michael O'Reilly, O'Connor
Sutton Cronin

Further details of the Executive Board members 2021-2022 are available on the [website](#). ACEI is pleased to welcome in particular new Executive member Joe Burns. Joe is the Buildings Business Lead in Arup Ireland.

ACEI 2021 Engineering Excellence Awards

The shortlist of project awards in the ACEI 2021 Engineering Excellence Awards was [recently announced](#). There was a great response to the call for entries with a total of 31 projects submitted across all ten categories. Shortlisting was a difficult process for the adjudicators who commended all involved on the high standard of projects submitted in a very difficult year. An event to announce and celebrate the award winners will be organised later in the year.

ACEI 2021 Future Leader Award

A number of interviews took place earlier this month with the short-listed candidates for the ACEI 2021 Future Leader Award. Adjudicator Derrick Edge, Past-President of ACEI, was very impressed with all the applicants. The overall winner will be announced later in the year, and in the meantime ACEI is pleased to congratulate the two worthy finalists:

Richard Kiernan, Donnachadh O'Brien & Associates
Seamus Doyle, O'Connor Sutton Cronin

Benefits of Sea Swimming

As many people will know, swimming in the sea has several positive outcomes. [Swim Ireland](#) provides some useful tips to consider for those thinking of taking the plunge! And [Wild Swimming Ireland](#) has some interesting suggestions for where to swim in the open around the country.

Recent Good News

- ACEI congratulates member firm RPS which has been shortlisted in the Professional Services Category of the prestigious 2021 [Green Awards](#).
- Congratulations are due to PJ Ryan, Ethos Engineering, new Convenor of the ACEI Sustainability Committee. PJ has recently obtained the [Living Future Accreditation \(LFA\)](#) seal from the International Living Future Institute (ILFI).
- During the Autumn a special EU train [#ConnectingEurope](#) express will travel across Europe from Lisbon to Paris, covering 26 countries in 36 days over 20,000km. One of the aims of the initiative is to publicise the benefits of rail as a sustainable, smart and safe means of transport.

Irish Construction News

The first edition of [Irish Construction News](#) has been published this week. Editor Robbie Cousins notes that this new publication provides an independent view of the issues affecting the Irish construction and built environment sectors. ACEI member activities are featured in a number of places and we look forward to further contributions from the association and its member firms. The next issue will focus on infrastructure and related matters.

EFCA E-Newsletter

The second edition of the new monthly EFCA [E-Newsletter](#) is now available. A number of events are highlighted including the EFCA Week during 8.30 – 10.00am on 1, 2, 3 and 4 June 2021 as follows: Future Leaders 01/06, Annual General Meeting 02/06, Reports from Committees 03/06 and EU Recovery and Resilience Roundtable 04/06. ACEI members are welcome to attend these events, however [advance registration](#) is required.

FIDIC Upcoming Events

Members are invited to attend an important FIDIC webinar on 15 June 2021. Organised by the Sustainable Development Committee, the title is: 'The role of the infrastructure industry in achieving a net zero world'. Registration and further information about the event is available on the [FIDIC Website](#).

The FIDIC General Assembly Meeting (GAM) will take place virtually on Tuesday 14 September 2021, and ACEI members are welcome to attend. Further details including registration will be provided nearer the time.