

ConsultA

ACEI Newsletter - 22 April 2021

Information and Advice for ACEI Members

ACEI President's Closing Remarks



As I enter my last days as President of ACEI, I look back on a year dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. It was a year of exceptional challenges for the consulting engineering community and for society in general. I took over as President against a background of remote working, never thinking that one year later as I prepare to leave office, our ACEI member firms would still primarily be working remotely. The way you, our member firms and your staff adapted to the challenges and stresses of remote working has been remarkable. I have met with many senior leaders of client bodies and government departments during the year, and all have been overwhelmingly complimentary as to how the consulting engineering profession adjusted to change and continued to deliver effectively on their behalf. The resilience shown by member firms to deliver quality service in uncertain times was a source of pride to me as President.

In those meetings with the major client bodies and government departments including TII, Irish Water, LDA, OPW, daa, Departments of Education and Transport as well as the OGP, we continually advocated on your behalf in relation to the significant issues facing our member firms including professional indemnity insurance, pipelines of work, and the need to progress design stage works to facilitate infrastructure commitments outlined in the Programme for Government and in the National Development Plan (NDP). Advancing investment in public infrastructure through the NDP to enable Ireland recover from the devastating impact of the pandemic crisis was a consistent theme across our submissions to government on the July Stimulus Plan, Budget 2021 and more recently on the Review of the National Development Plan itself. And I am pleased that in the Phase 1 Report on the National Development Plan released earlier this month by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER), many of the ACEI themes and recommendations were referenced by DPER. Indeed, the importance of themes such as Climate Action, Balanced Regional Development, Sustainable Housing and Transport, all consistent ACEI themes, was recognised by DPER and will take a central role in the new NDP.

I remain confident that there will be an economic recovery in the immediate aftermath of the pandemic. As I have repeatedly written, the underlying challenges that existed before the pandemic still remain. The population is projected to grow by an additional one million people by the year 2040 and significant investment in infrastructure is needed to meet the demands additional population growth will pose. As consulting engineers, you have a major role in developing a sustainable economy for that future growth through design, planning, procurement and project management, all key to progressing infrastructure projects across all sectors.

In conclusion, in this my final message to you as President, I would like to thank you for your support throughout the year. I would like to wish our new incoming President, David McHugh well. The inauguration of a new President or Presidential Handover is an important formal event for all institutions, as it celebrates the presidential office and welcomes the new incoming President. I would encourage you to attend the AGM tomorrow, which again this year is being held virtually, and through your attendance, support David as he begins his journey as President. So that's it from me. And this time, for the last time, as the vaccine rollout now moves at an increasing pace and we can begin to see a pathway to the restoration of the positive norms we once took for granted and an end to this pandemic crisis, mind yourselves, mind your families and stay safe.

Conor McCarthy
President
ACEI

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 General Meeting

The ACEI Annual General Meeting will take place virtually tomorrow, at 11.30am – 1pm, Friday 23 April. The agenda, Annual Report, and related papers have already been circulated by email. A Teams meeting invite will be provided in advance to all FConsEI and RConsEI members. We look forward to a high attendance at the AGM to support the ACEI Executive Board that have been working hard on behalf of members throughout the difficult pandemic year.

ACEI Work on Joint Sustainability Conference

ACEI was pleased to be involved in a joint [Sustainability Conference](#) on 21 April 2021. Working with other professional bodies including Engineers Ireland, SCSi, RIAI and the IPI, the conference was a successful and topical collaboration on the importance of climate action under three themes: Circular Economy, Sustainable Cities and Greening Buildings.

A combined [press release](#) was issued in advance of the event. As well as hearing from national and speakers, Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, Eamon Ryan, provided a keynote address. The new Chair of the Climate Change Advisory Council, Marie Donnelly also made a presentation.

Members of ACEI firms who participated as panellists included Conall Boland, Sustainability Lead in RPS; Eszter Gulacsy, UK Buildings / Technical director (Sustainability) in Mott MacDonald; and David Wilkes, Global Flood Resilience Leader in Arup. ACEI Vice-President David McHugh provided a summary of the event and the closing remarks to the conference on behalf of ACEI.



ACEI Member Image

A 'Member of ACEI' image is available for download, see above, on the member administration section of the ACEI Website. This has been designed to use on members' website, a signoff on emails, on site hoarding signs, or anywhere where it is deemed appropriate to promote ACEI membership. Any queries about the use of the image, or how to access it, can be directed to info@acei.ie.

New EFCA E-Newsletter

The 1st edition of a new monthly [EFCA E-Newsletter](#) was recently published. The audience for this is all EFCA member associations, member representatives of EFCA working groups and interested staff of engineering consulting firms. The newsletter aims to provide regular updates on EFCA's advocacy work, activities and achievements. It will also provide a platform for information in relation to the European regulatory environment as well as presenting a variety of recent reports and resources. EFCA welcomes suggestions for the content and format of the newsletter.

FIDIC Report on Global Water Crisis

The latest [FIDIC State of the World report](#) focuses on the global water crisis. The report is the second in a FIDIC series. It highlights the increasing challenge of the world's water resources issues which are causing greater financial and social costs, and worsening the effects of climate change and global warming. The report, *Establishing the value of water - the business case for change*, examines the global water sector and makes a number of recommendations. It focuses on the growing global demand for water, the energy-food-water nexus and the challenges associated with correctly charging for water and sanitation services.

New Five-Year Apprenticeship Action Plan

This week Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris, and Minister of State for Skills and Further Education, Niall Collins, launched the [Action Plan for Apprenticeship 2021-2025](#). The action plan, welcomed by ACEI, will set out a five year strategy to deliver on the Programme for Government commitment of reaching 10,000 new apprentice registrations per year by 2025. It provides a roadmap to a single apprenticeship system and new supports for employers and apprentices.

IT Sligo and BRE Partner on BIM Cert

IT Sligo has piloted a short course, developed by the Building Research Establishment (BRE) to ensure that the latest processes are incorporated into relevant programmes. The course is titled [BIM Approved Graduate](#), ("BIM AG"). Graduates who successfully complete an examination can obtain an internationally recognised certificate or micro-credential. Further information about the extensive range of construction related programmes at IT Sligo is available at www.itsligo.ie.