

ConsultA

ACEI Newsletter - 23 March 2023

Information and Advice for ACEI Members

ACEI President's Closing Remarks



I write this in my last weeks of my term as your President. I am shocked at how fast the year has flown by and saddened to be facing the end of what has been a really enjoyable and fulfilling 12 month period.

Along with recent years, the 2022 / 2023 session will live long in the memories of all involved in the Irish built environment sector for many of the wrong reasons. The war against Ukraine continues to negatively impact on the lives of millions of the country's citizens. It has also affected all economies across western Europe, including hyper-inflation of energy costs, which does thankfully seem to be receding as Spring approaches. These costs have fed into an already overheated construction economy in Ireland, which along with rising interest rates have affected the viability of many projects. Such difficulties are especially apparent in the residential sector which the Government admits is a national crisis. I recently attended an outreach event on Modern Methods of Construction, which was hosted by five separate Government departments. It is very clear that some joined-up thinking is required to address the current challenges.

The recent failure of the "pillar" banks of Silicon Valley and Credit Suisse have led to shockwaves travelling around the boardrooms of the world. This is all too familiar in relation to the crash of 2008. Combined with the lingering effects of Brexit and COVID-19, we continue to live in interesting times.

The ACEI had its own shock event early in 2023, when our Secretary General, Sarah Ingle, delivered the "bombshell", that she was leaving Ireland to travel with her husband, Willo Roe, who is taking up a work assignment opportunity on the west coast of the USA. Having recovered from the shock, it is my pleasure to join with all the members of the association and indeed the wider Irish built environment sector, to thank Sarah for her enthusiasm, drive and attention to detail, that has brought ACEI to a new level in her eight years at the helm. She has been an absolute pleasure to work with over my very short year as President. Sarah will remain available to us during the transition period and the search to fill her "Big Boots" is well underway. We wish Sarah and Willo all the best in their travels.

I would like to conclude by wishing the incoming President, James Kavanagh, and his Executive Board every success for the coming year. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the forthcoming AGM and the Annual Awards Dinner, which is again a sold-out event. This and all the work of the Association is only made possible by the hard work of the Secretariat under the leadership of Sarah Ingle.

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 Secretary General Recruitment

First and second round interviews have been undertaken in relation to the recruitment process for ACEI Secretary General Sarah Ingle's successor. It is hoped to provide further details on the outcome soon.

ACEI Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will take place tomorrow, at 11.30am – 1pm, Friday 24 March. The AGM will be hybrid, in-person at ACEI 46 Merrion Sq, Dublin 2 and virtually via Teams. The agenda, Annual Report, and related papers have already been circulated by email. To facilitate catering and other arrangements, if you have not already done so please register attendance format or apologies in advance to Toni Noonan, projects@acei.ie.

A Teams meeting invite will be provided to all FConsEI and RConsEI members who register in advance and wish to participate online. We encourage all members to join the AGM and look forward to a high attendance to support the work of the ACEI Executive Board and Committees and the Secretariat.

ACEI Awards Dinner

President Brian Kavanagh looks forward to welcoming members and their guests to the ACEI Awards Dinner in the Shelbourne Hotel on 31 March. Once again the dinner is sold out, however all member firms who wished to obtain tickets have been accommodated. This will be a very enjoyable event celebrating the work of ACEI members and their projects. A feature on the award winners will be published in the Business Post on 23 April.

ACEI LinkedIn Promotional Programme

As members may have seen in the last couple of weeks, ACEI recently commissioned a 12-week promotional programme on [LinkedIn](#). This activity was undertaken to address a priority action arising from the Bridging the Gap report, that of developing the awareness of ACEI and its work to members, potential members and the wider society. The benefits of ACEI membership will also be outlined in order to encourage new member firms as well as increase the numbers of FConsEI and RConsEI.

The overall purpose of the programme is to explain with relevant text and images what the ACEI is, what it does and who it represents. As the programme rolls out it will also include updates on ACEI activities. Members are encouraged to engage with the LinkedIn programme by liking and reposting and also sharing with colleagues. This will be very helpful to broaden the reach of the promotion.

Recent Good News

- Member firm **O'Connor Sutton Cronin** recently launched its 'Thank a Colleague Week' campaign! This initiative is part of the OCSC well-being programme and its purpose is to encourage employees to take the time to show appreciation for their colleagues and their hard work. The staff of OCSC believe that expressing gratitude is a great way to strengthen connections, boost morale, promote a better work environment and improve mental wellbeing.

FIDIC CEO Update

In the March 2023 [FIDIC CEO Update](#), Nelson Ogunshakin reports on the latest FIDIC activities, initiatives and events. In his introduction Nelson notes that the theme of the 2023 International Women's Day, *DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality*, was especially relevant for all those working in the engineering, construction and infrastructure sector. He welcomes Catherine Karakatsanis' election as FIDIC President later this year and believes her taking up the role will encourage more diversity and inclusion, both within FIDIC and the wider industry.

Elsewhere in the update Nelson advises that FIDIC has published a new guidance document to assist the users of its construction contracts when dealing with the effects of inflation and shortages of labour and goods following the pandemic and the war against Ukraine. ACEI members are encouraged to review FIDIC's 2023 programme of activities including a wide range of conferences, summits, webinars, training courses and workshops relevant to the consulting engineering industry.

Where Your Money Goes

Minister Paschal Donohoe of the Department of Public Expenditure NDP Delivery and Reform recently launched the updated [Where Your Money Goes](#) website. This resource is aimed at promoting a greater awareness and better understanding of how and where Government spends public funds and is a graphical, easy-to-use tool. The website allows users to quickly drill in to the various sectors that make up the €103.5 billion of this year's government expenditure, and look back at public expenditure trends over the last decade. The website includes dedicated summaries, interactive charts and easy-to-use graphs.

ACEI Easter Holiday Arrangements

The ACEI Office will be closed from 7 to 10 April 2023 inclusive. Sarah, Louise and Toni in the Secretariat, along with President Brian Kavanagh and the Executive Board wish all ACEI member firms an enjoyable break over the long weekend.