

ConsultA

ACEI Newsletter - 28 January 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 2021 Directory and Review

This week the ACEI 2021 Directory and Review will be posted out to FConSEI and RConSEI members. Many thanks are due to all those who provided contributions. We hope you enjoy reading the new features, particularly those covering the winners of last year's Engineering Excellence Awards. The Directory is also available for review now on the front page of the [ACEI Website](#).

ACEI Virtual Conference 3 March 2021

Further to recent communications, ACEI is pleased to advise members that bookings are now open for its virtual conference taking place on the morning of 3 March 2021. The association is also delighted to announce that the Minister at the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER), Michael McGrath, will provide the opening address.

The overall conference theme is: *Delivery where the only Constant is Change*. Further information including speakers and booking details are available on the [ACEI Website](#). Registrations are already coming in so members are encouraged to book their places as soon as possible.

ACEI Project Nominations and Awards Dinner

Members are reminded that the closing date for project nominations to the 2021 [Engineering Excellence Awards](#) is 12pm on 8 February 2021. The award winners will be announced at the annual gala dinner, rescheduled to 17 September 2021. Further information will be provided after shortlisting takes place.

Retirement of ACEI Past-President Tony Horan

ACEI congratulates Past-President Tony Horan on his retirement from member firm O'Connor Sutton Cronin (OCSC). During his time at OCSC Tony worked on some of the most prestigious projects in Ireland, the UK and across Europe and the Middle East. As ACEI President he provided inspiring leadership to the Executive Board and the Secretariat during his 2017 – 2018 term of office. One Presidential highlight was Tony's attendance and participation at the 2017 FIDIC international conference held in Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia. Tony and his wife Florry are wished a long and happy retirement by all in ACEI.

Ibec Survey of CEOs

The results of a recent [Ibec survey](#), "Business in 2021 and Beyond: A CEO Perspective", indicate that the main areas of strategic importance for firms in 2021 include the availability of suitable skills and the transition to low carbon initiatives. Continuing challenges from last year include economic related difficulties, and the fallout from the the pandemic, not least its impact on collaboration and innovation.

Future of Remote Working

The Government is currently working on a [strategy](#) to facilitate remote working opportunities becoming an integral aspect of the workplace. Writing in [Silicon Republic](#), Elaine Burke notes that: "... how this plays out in practice will be driven by company leaders. Employee rights alone don't protect workers, especially junior ones who don't have the wisdom of experience to back up formal complaints. Top-down attitudes to switching off will be vital in the new world of work, and leaders who realise this will benefit from a well-adjusted team."

[Peter Cosgrove](#) of *Futurewise* posted recently about the "the biggest remote work experiment which has moved us forward ten years in three months". He outlines the positives of working remotely including reduced commuting, as well as providing an examination of the perceived disadvantages including less collaborative activities in the workplace, particularly those of an informal nature.

Cosgrove concludes: "For employees out there I would be worrying less about where you will work, and much more about ... whether you are enjoying the work you do and are learning and feel challenged".

Networking Advice for Introverts

A popular module in the 2020 ACEI Leadership Course for aspiring RConsEI applicants was one on networking. Presenter [Kingsley Aikins](#) views networking as an activity where you primarily aim to give, rather than take.

In a relevant TED post, [Karen Wickre](#) outlines some networking tips for introverts in particular, in order to cultivate professional connections while minimising anxiety and awkwardness.

Recent Good News

- Congratulations are due to Gerry O'Sullivan, Senior Consultant in ACEI Member firm Gavin & Doherty Geosolutions who has recently been appointed as an [Ambassador](#) in the Causeway Ireland Scotland Business Exchange. Gerry has been involved with [Causeway](#) since its initiation.
- The International Energy Agency ([IEA](#)) has announced its intention to publish a plan for the worldwide global energy sector to attain net zero by 2050. The comprehensive [road map](#) outlined earlier this month by the IEA's Executive Director, Dr Fatih Birol, will include an analysis for recovery after the pandemic to reduce emissions.
- A new online portal, [The Right Course](#), was launched by the Government this month to promote life-long learning and boost Irish productivity. This welcome initiative brings together free course offerings in one location.

Beale & Co Upcoming Webinars

Following on from the success of the bespoke Beale & Co webinar for ACEI firms "Contract Negotiation and Dispute Avoidance", members may wish to attend [A Practical Guide to Adjudication](#) on 4 February. This event will include a detailed consideration of adjudication under the Construction Contracts Act 2013. The webinar will focus on the structure of the adjudicative process and the considerations for referring parties and responding parties in adjudication.

A further Beale & Co webinar, in conjunction with Enterprise Ireland, on the [International Construction Market](#) is also planned for 11 February. This will cover practical matters that Irish construction firms should consider when operating internationally, as well as outlining available supports.

Resiliency Theory

Continuing with some thoughts about resilience from the previous newsletter, [Ashley Carson](#) recently interviewed Gina London, CEO of *Language of Leadership*, about values, resiliency, and leadership. London defines her values as kindness, curiosity, and commitment to growth. In their conversation they note that in order to connect with others, it is important to show you care, be curious, and ask questions. The importance of connections in supporting resilience is a key theme.