

CEC e-Newsletter – April 2021

A message from CEC President Professor Paul W Jowitt CBE

Dear CEC Members and Engineering Colleagues in the Commonwealth,

I hope that this newsletter finds you all in good health and spirits. The Commonwealth Engineers' Council is delighted to announce that we are now receiving applications for new and renewed membership. More details below.

Covid has changed how we interact locally, nationally and globally and CEC is in a privileged position to connect engineers across the Commonwealth and will build its future on the benefits and the opportunities this will deliver. We want to use this realisation of what is possible together with the common values of the commonwealth members facilitate knowledge transfer and enable better outcomes for all our members.

1. CEC Membership: now receiving applications

Following a successful reaccreditation with the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Commonwealth Engineers' Council is now looking to formalise its membership.

We would like to invite all properly constituted Professional Engineering Institutions throughout the Commonwealth to become Full CEC members, entitled to vote and eligible to hold CEC positions.

No membership subscription fees will be payable until after the next CEC General Assembly in November 2022, with the first subscription year running from 1st January 2023. The CEC subscription model will be created prior to November 2022 and will be based on membership uptake between now and the CEC General Assembly.

CEC will also welcome Associate Members and Corresponding Members, being those organisations and individuals respectively who have an interest in CEC matters. Associate Members and Corresponding Members will not be required to pay fees and will have no vote nor be eligible to hold CEC positions.

One of the key aims of inviting membership prior to introducing subscriptions is to formalise our list of contacts and members details going forward. Therefore, existing CEC members should also complete the application form.

Please find attached the full value proposition, membership invitation letter and application forms.

2. Commonwealth Sustainable Cities: Continuing Professional Development, Season Two

CEC is delighted to invite you to join season two of Continuing Professional Development for built environment professionals, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP), the Commonwealth Engineers Council (CEC) and the Commonwealth Heritage Forum (CHF). The aim of the programme is to facilitate

knowledge exchange, to help promote mutual understanding and greater awareness of issues related to climate change and rapid urbanisation together with the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While targeted at qualified built environment professionals, we hope that season two will be of interest to policymakers, city leaders and students alike.

Season two comprises five sessions, commencing on 22 April 2021 and concluding on 20 May 2021. The 5 themes underpinning season two have been developed in response to a survey of the participants who attended last year's pilot programme and to reflect on a range of key issues in the run up to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Rwanda in June.

Find the registration links here: www.commonwealthsustainablecities.org/cpd

The Commonwealth Engineers' Council is hosting the third session: **The Challenge of Climate Change**. This session is on the 6th May starting at 10.30am UTC.

The aim of the session will be to consider what needs to be done to reduce the climate impact of infrastructure systems, who needs to do it and what the consequences will be if we fail. Register for Zoom or watch the livestream (please note you will not be able to submit questions if you watch via the livestream).

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hYVBoSv4RRmibPes-ngTCw

Following the corresponding CEC Webinar in the 2020 pre-CHOGM events, CEC President wrote a follow up piece which has been posted recently by New Civil Engineer Magazine, and here is the link: <https://buff.ly/3mygeAv>

3. CEC web developments and updates

The Commonwealth Engineers' Council now has a Wikipedia page:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commonwealth_Engineers_Council

We invite members to update the page, add links, or make other amendments, as this will strengthen the page and allow a better alignment with Wikipedia's notability guidelines.

We are also currently creating a website dedicated to The Commonwealth Engineers' Council which will be launched later this year.

4. Second UNESCO Engineering Report

The second UNESCO Engineering Report, Engineering for Sustainable Development: Delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals, published on 4 March 2021, is launched in the context of accelerating actions to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals. CEC Executive Committee members Dawn Bonfield and Yashin Brijmohan have both written chapters in this report, which can be found here: <https://en.unesco.org/reports/engineering>

5. The Commonwealth Standards Network

A message from Scott Steedman CBE, Director-General Standards, BSI Group:

www.Commonwealthstandards.net

In our role as the national standards body for the UK, BSI is a very active member of the international standards organisations ISO and IEC. We manage the collection of British Standards that is used by industry, government and consumers to meet their needs in the UK and globally. Over 85% of British Standards are international and European regional standards and we have over 1,200 committees that

develop and maintain standards covering all industry sectors and cross-cutting business themes, such as risk management, organisational governance, occupational health and safety, ethics and anti-bribery.

As a civil engineer I welcomed the opportunity at BSI to reflect on how best practice standards can improve quality, safety and productivity in the engineering sector and I am particularly interested in the role of standards to support small and medium size enterprises (SMEs) become more innovative and competitive. Almost all of the Commonwealth countries have a national standards body and although we work together in ISO my team and I wanted to strengthen the links between our countries and to provide more advice and support to business and industry across the Commonwealth countries, many of which still use British Standards.

To bring us closer together as nations we created the Commonwealth Standards Network (CSN), not to develop new standards but to share information between our national standards bodies about how international standards are used today to boost trade and to accelerate the delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The CSN was launched in April 2018 at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in London with funding from UK Aid and it has gone from strength to strength. On top of the knowledge sharing and networking activity the UK government has supported the delivery of technical assistance projects, delivered through the CSN, which have promoted the use and awareness of international standards and improved the institutional capacity to use and develop international standards amongst Commonwealth developing countries, leading to enhanced levels of intra Commonwealth trade and delivering positive developmental outcomes.

The Commonwealth has a many trade advantages including a large, young and growing population, a combined GDP of around US\$13tn and advantageous trading relationships that makes it both easier and cheaper for Commonwealth States to trade with one another. Technical regulations and standards underpin global trade. Standards lower barriers to trade, allowing companies to access global markets, offering economies of scale and reduced production costs. International standards create a common language for business and the use of international standards in major projects across the Commonwealth supports technology transfer and the delivery of high quality engineering solutions.

I am convinced that we can use the CSN to strengthen engineering capability through increasing awareness and understanding of the role of international standards in our different countries, not only to deliver technical solutions but also to improve business performance. My team and I would be pleased to hear from you. You can reach us and learn more about the Commonwealth Standards Network by contacting Ben Hedley at Ben.Hedley@BSIGroup.com

6. Africa Catalyst and the Web App for Infrastructure Reporting

Work is continuing on the Web App with funding from Engineers Against Poverty (<http://engineersagainstpoverity.org/>) and the R&D Enabling Fund of the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) and the RAEng Africa Catalyst Program. Some will recall the initial proof of concept App developed under Africa Catalyst Phase One between SAFEO and CEC. The new Web App is now being used in the successful FAEO Project under Africa Catalyst Phase 3, led by FAEO Past President Martin van Veelen to develop Infrastructure Report Cards (IRCs) for Africa. CEC is the UK partner. And CEC is also involved in the FAEO-led Working Group within WFEO on developing a Global IRC.

The Web App is not finished yet, but if you want a sneak preview of the development site, take a peek at <https://master-dev.infrastructurereportcard.xyz>

This is a major achievement for FAEO and CEC.

7. Engineers against Poverty

Engineers Against Poverty is an independent, lean organisation that bridges the divide between research, policy and practice. If you want to find out a bit more about their work, the recent EAP newsletter can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3uMgOgl>

Here are some of EAP's latest research highlights:

- the ramifications of corruption in Mega Sport Events infrastructure
- why the events are prone to corruption; and
- what to do about it.

You can find some more information about the launch of their Insights paper on corruption in mega-sport event infrastructure here: <https://bit.ly/3v2l0JB>

8. Federation of African Engineering Organisations (FAEO) awards: Friend of Africa

FAEO, the apex body that represents the interest of all engineering practitioners in Africa, most notably at WFEO, has formally recognised distinguished friends who have contributed immensely to the advancement of engineering education and practice in Africa as well as consistently supported their own development and sustainability. We are delighted to announce that several associates and friends of CEC were awarded the FAEO Distinguished Friend of Africa Award in January 2021. These include:

Professor Paul W. Jowitt, President of CEC

Dr. Marlene Kanga, Past President of WFEO

(We are awaiting confirmation of other CEC colleagues similarly honoured, and we will update you later)

9. CoST newsletter

The Infrastructure Transparency Initiative (CoST) is one of the leading global initiatives improving transparency and accountability in public infrastructure. They work with government, private sector and civil society to promote the disclosure, validation and interpretation of data from infrastructure projects. You can find the most recent CoST newsletter here: <https://mailchi.mp/fae071d72627/cost-newsletter-july-4281657?e=a39fe9a112>

10. Commonwealth Games 2022

We were delighted to see that the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham will be carbon-neutral for the very first time. Amongst other initiatives to make the games greener than ever, organisers aim to create 72 new urban forests in the West Midlands and a further 2,022 acres of woodland. Read more here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-56402833>

11. 2032 Olympics

And, looking ahead, we are also delighted that Brisbane will be hosting the 2032 Olympics. Dy Currie - President of our sister organisation, the Commonwealth Association of Planners – is closely involved in her role as Brisbane City Council's Chief Planner.

12. HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh: 1921-2021

The Commonwealth Engineers' Council is deeply saddened to learn of the death of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. The engineering community has immensely benefited from his dedication to the principle that engineers make the world a greater place. In 2015, he wrote that "instead of complaining, they think of ways to make things better." He will be greatly missed.

We now welcome applications for new or renewed CEC membership, please submit these to p.w.jowitt@hw.ac.uk and/or katie.momber@ice.org.uk, and we will pass them on to the Interim Executive Committee for consideration.

Kind regards,



Paul Jowitt, President, Commonwealth Engineers Council

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