



THE FIJI INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS

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FIE NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2013

Time seems to rush by with 2012 now far behind us and we are well into January 2013. There are a few subjects that we need to bring to members attention.

DICK ELDER

As you will I am sure know that sadly Dick passed away in November and we take this opportunity to acknowledge Dick in this newsletter.



Dick Elder at a SPEA launch dinner, March 2010

It was with great sadness that we heard of the sudden passing away of Dick Elder. Dick was far more than just a good well respected engineer. Dick had served the FIE in many capacities throughout many years. His work on the Council of the FIE was invaluable, we could always rely on Dick to carefully study the point of issue, then come up with a solution that many of us perhaps had failed to realise. Dick was also one of the few people that could be relied upon to fully carry out a task. If Dick agreed to do something, we knew that it would be done and carried out with care and thought. Dick was also a person who you could discuss any points with as one to one. His opinions that were sought always came back with the true interest of the FIE at heart. Dick was also a person who kept away from the limelight and it is perhaps only now that we can try and I feel inadequately express our feelings. Not so long ago the

Council of the FIE approved the elevation of Dick's membership to that of Fellow for his invaluable service not only to the FIE, but to engineering in Fiji.

All of us engineers, the FIE and Fiji have lost a much respected colleague, engineer and true friend.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

At a recent meeting of your Council, the good news is that it was decided to again leave the subscription rates unchanged for 2013. As a reminder the rates are:

Grade of Membership	Subscription for 2013	Grade of Membership	Subscription for 2013
Fellow	\$500.00	Diplomate	\$75.00
Professional	\$380.00	Affiliate	\$200.00
Technical	\$300.00	Student	\$20.00
Graduate	\$200.00	Honorary Fellow	exempt
Associate	\$200.00		

Retired members pay 50% of the full subscription.

Subscriptions became due on 1 January 2013. Members are encouraged to pay their subscriptions soon to avoid reminders and subsequent deletion from the membership roll. Payments should be made by direct deposit to The Fiji Institution of Engineers bank account at ANZ Suva, Account No.: 1558011. Please email copies of the deposit slip to the FIE at the following addresses: fiefiji@connect.com.fj and cc to fiefiji@gmail.com. Please ensure that your full name and FIE membership number is included on the deposit slip.

DRAFT PRACTISING ENGINEERS REGISTRATION DECREE 2012

The President of the FIE in a meeting with the Prime Minister in 2007 requested the enforcement of the Engineers Registration Act 1978. In 2008 an Engineers Registration Board (ERB) was appointed for a term of 2 years by the Minister. Of the 8 ERB board members, 3 were representatives of the FIE. The FIE realized that the ERB was dysfunctional in the 2 years. Madam Nazhat Shameem was consulted for advice. It was suggested and later agreed that the Engineers Registration Act 1978 was inappropriate for Fiji. It was therefore proposed that a Chartered Professional Engineers Act Fiji (CPEAF) be considered for Fiji. Wider consultation, outside of the membership commenced in July 2010. The Chartered Professional Engineers Act 2002 New Zealand (CPEANZ) was approved as a model for Fiji. To this effect early 2011 the FIE in consultation with Madam Shameem made a submission to the cabinet recommending the adoption of CPEANZ as a model for Fiji. In one of its sittings later in 2011 the cabinet endorsed Madam Shameem's submission.

Last year saw active participation by relevant stakeholders making their contributions towards the finalisation of this document through two workshops. The workshops were well attended by members of FIE, other Engineers from various government departments, statutory and private organisations, and heads of the respective line ministries and government departments. Representatives from the Solicitor General's office were also present at both workshops to provide their inputs and guidance.

Since the last workshop held on 24th August 2012, the FIE is aware that further consultation meetings have taken place between a group of Engineers from the Ministry of Works and representatives from the SG's office to further review the document. It is unfortunate that FIE was unable to send any representatives at these latest consultation meetings due to very short notice provided. One meeting which FIE had provided its confirmation to attend did not eventuate due to TC Evan late last year.

The FIE now has a final chance to review the current draft and provide its comments to the Ministry of Works. All FIE members have therefore been requested to send in their feedback and comments by 4pm Friday 25th January, 2013 following which the Council of FIE will meet and prepare a response to the Ministry of Works. Those members who have not received any communication on this matter can enquire on the following email: sdeo@scopepacific.com.

TC EVAN – POST DISASTER ENGINEERING SEMINAR

The above CPD seminar relating to Tropical Cyclone Evan was held on Friday 18th January 2013 at the Tanoa Plaza, Suva focusing on the Outcomes; Lessons; Implementations & Relevance to Fiji Building and Other Laws; and Disaster Preparedness & Management. The seminar was well attended by Engineers, Architects, Local Authorities, Insurance companies, relevant government departments and other relevant stakeholders.

Dr. George Walker, an Honorary Research Fellow from Aon Benfield and an Adjunct Professor and a member of the Advisory Committee of the cyclone Testing Station at James Cook University was the expert presenter. His presentation covered good background information about cyclones in Fiji, their impact on the development of local building standards over the past years and how this has lessened the damage bill due to structural failures in cyclones over the years. He also presented a number of examples of structural damages to various types of buildings caused by TC Evan. These damages in his opinion were mainly due to design, certification and constructional issues which need to be further discussed and improved upon.

The seminar was concluded with a panel discussion on relevant issues raised with the final outcome that the government will take the lead role in taking the necessary actions from the lessons learned from TC Evan. The Director for Housing Mr. Kolinio Bola who was present at the seminar confirmed that the National Building Standards Committee will be requesting for representation from the FIE, FIA and other relevant bodies in taking this issue forward.

We would like to thank Dr. Walker for his presentation and for highlighting the pertinent issues that need to be further discussed. A special thanks goes to the Minister for Local Government, Urban Development, Housing & Environment, Col. Samuela Saumataua for opening the seminar with a strong message to move away from the complacencies of the past and to prepare ourselves for the effects of climate change. Last but not least a big thank you to Mr. Pratarp Singh (President FIE & President SPEA) for organising this event and providing us all the opportunity to learn and share our knowledge on this important topic.



The Minister delivering his opening address



Dr George Walker



Delegates and Dr George Walker listening to the address by the Minister