



THE FIJI INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS

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FIE NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2011

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION & CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION SYMPOSIUM (WIND ENGINEERING)

Following the announcement of a revision to the Australian/New Zealand Standard, AS/NZS 1170.2:2011 Structural Design Actions; Part 2: Wind Actions, a two day seminar was very successfully held on 02 and 03 June with over 100 participants on the first day and about 80 on the second day.

Key speakers were brought in from Australia which included Dr. John Holmes an expert from Melbourne, Australia and Chairperson of the Wind Loads Subcommittee, AS/NZS 1170.2, 2011, Dr. Geoffrey Boughton an expert from Perth, Australia, who was the chairperson for the Tropical Cyclone Yasi Investigative Team, Mr. Neil Cunningham, Technical Manager, Australian Window Association and NATA Technical Assessor and Dr. Paolo Bazzurro, a consultant for the World Bank. Our local speakers included Mr. Pratarp Singh, FIE President, Madam Nazhat Shameem, a former high court judge in Fiji and consultant advisor of FIE, Mr. Iniya Nayaga, the Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank and Mr. Lolesh Sharma, Chairperson of the Insurance Council of Fiji. A good response was received from the floor at question time with some interesting questions put to the panel and individual speakers.

The FIE believe the symposium was a highly successful and a unique occasion, where senior officials and some dignitaries were given opportunity to gather and make contributions in the wind engineering specific area of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

The FIE is grateful to the Commonwealth of Australia for supporting this very successful training project.



Figure 1. Q & A panel – FAA, FIE, Commercial Banks, RBF, FIE President, ICF, SCC, Former Judge, SOPAC



Figure 2. Attendees at Novotel, Lami for Wind Engineering Symposium on 02 June 2011

ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

The FIE has continued to be increasingly recognised with numerous requests to attend many meetings dealing with a variety of issues of national importance. This is good news for the FIE but it has meant on some occasions that we have been left struggling to attend some of those meetings. Your Council recently requested some ordinary members to attend some meetings due to the excessive workload on Council members. We can see this request being a permanent request for the foreseeable future.

The Rules of the FIE call for the Council to meet as often as the business of the Institution may require but not less frequently than four times in each calendar year. Your Council has so far this year met on 06 occasions, since the AGM is in March.

MEETINGS ATTENDED BY THE PRESIDENT

To raise the profile of the profession of Engineering in Fiji and the region our President in his personal capacity attended the 4th World Engineers Convention in Geneva, Switzerland from 4-9 September and Pacific Platform on Disaster Management and Climate Change Adaptation in Auckland from 1-5 August.

Other regional meetings attended by the President include:

1. Engineers Australia – Workshop Presentation by the President on 19 October 2011 on the topic engineers supporting humanitarian outcomes in the acute phase of international disasters.
2. South West Pacific Conference on Earthquake Engineering NZ – 22-24 August, 2011
3. SPEA Council meeting NZ – 20-21 August, 2011
4. SPEA Council meeting PNG – 5-6 April, 2011

HIGH COURT ACTION

The High Court action that was brought by a member of the FIE (under the name of his company) against the council members of the FIE was withdrawn by him on 13 July 2011 and the court has struck out the action. There is therefore no court action now pending with respect to this matter.

FIJI NATIONAL BUILDING CODE REVIEW

Public Health (National Building Code (NBC) Fiji Islands) Regulations 2004 was first published in its draft form in 1990 and has not undergone any review process since then. Because of various amendments in certain standards/codes and laws in the building and construction industries, certain sections of the NBC require updating and hence the need for the review process.

Last year FIE had proposed to the Minister for Health the need for review of the NBC of Fiji. The Minister had agreed to FIE's proposal and gave it the permission to lead a review process. FIE organised an initial consultation on 12 October 2011 in which a working committee was appointed. Details of further consultation and members contribution will follow.

ENGINEERS REGISTRATION ACT

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 Engineer's 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 this year the FIE in consultation with Madam Shameem made a submission to the Cabinet recommending the adoption of a draft based upon CPEANZ. In its sitting the Cabinet endorsed this submission. The government is aware of the efforts and progress made by the FIE and it is hopeful that a new CPEAF will be available soon. All members were sent feedback forms to give their comments on the proposed document. Following this a consultation meeting was held on 12 October 2011 which was chaired by Madam Shameem. The changes discussed in the meeting will be incorporated in the document and then submitted to the Minister soon.

MEMBERSHIP

We are pleased to announce that the following candidates have fulfilled the various requirements and are subject to objection period now.

Associate:

Stephen Hallacy

Graduates:

Krishneel Goundar, Raymond Rajiv Prasad, Nilendra Nand,

Diplomates:

Daniel Imraz Ali, Darmesh Deepak Reddy

It is required under the FIE Rules Section 7.1 (f) the name of each candidate appearing to the Council to be eligible for the election or transfer shall be notified to each member, published in a Journal or Bulletin of the Institution with an invitation to any member wishing to do so to record his objection. If an objection is received, such objection shall be reviewed and determined by the Council. If no objection to election or transfer is received within one month of the date of publication the candidate's name, together with a précis of the particulars on his/her application form shall be forwarded by email or post to each member of the Council.

FIE ANNUAL DINNER

Please make a note that the FIE Christmas Gala Dinner will be held on Friday 09 December at the Holiday Inn, Victoria Parade, Suva from 7pm-11pm. Last year over 100 members and their guests attended the function and it is hoped that we shall see a similar number at the dinner this year. Please note the ticket prices are \$40.00 for members and \$50.00 for non members. Please purchase your tickets now from Aarti Naicker on phone number 310 0343 or by email fiefiji@connect.com.fj from the office of FIE before 18 November 2011. Please note space is limited. The FIE office is located at level 2 Mid City Plaza, Cnr Cumming Street and Renwick Rd, Suva.