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FIE NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2010

FIE Office.

In keeping with the Council decision to get the FIE more on its own two feet, a telephone has now been installed in the FIE office. Please make a note of the number which is **310 0343**. The office is not manned on a full time basis and the previous number of 330 0300 can still be used. The office also now has a small printer and a filing cabinet, so we are now much less reliant on the kind offices of Entec for which we are very grateful, thanks Pratarp.

Insurance CPD.

We had our CPD on insurances on 10 May. Various other bodies were invited and we ended up with a total number of members and non members of 58. Craig Anderson from QBE in New Zealand was the guest speaker who raised several good points that also raised a few eyebrows. Following several questions there was a cocktail to finish off an interesting evening. We are grateful to QBE who were responsible in bringing in the speaker from New Zealand.

Nadirivatu CPD.

We organised an FIE visit to the FEA's new hydro plant at Nadirivatu. Sadly we had to call off the visit due to lack of support from our members. That was a pity as the FEA were looking forward to our visit.

Legal CPD.

Without doubt, we have the most important and interesting half day CPD of the year coming up shortly with the former High Court Judge Nazhat Shameem as the speaker. The seminar will cover, "The Law and the Building and Construction Industry in Fiji" This will take place at the Tanoa Plaza, Suva on Friday 9 July commencing at 2.00pm. A very considerable amount of work is in hand for this CPD and it is expected that members will want to attend in order to learn more about the law in our industry and hear this excellent speaker.

The Insurance Council of Fiji has expressed their desire (they would prefer to say mandatory) that all Engineers on their list and those who would like to be included on their list of Engineers attend this seminar.

For this occasion, there are considerable expenses being incurred by the FIE and we have found it necessary to make a charge on all attending FIE members of \$30.00. On arrival, each participant will be given a folder containing all the relevant information. After the seminar a cocktail will be served in order to give the opportunity to further discuss the outcomes of the seminar amongst ourselves and to generally meet up with each other to catch up and socialise. We shall be opening up this important CPD to other selected bodies. We strongly recommend that you book early to Aarti Naicker at the FIE office, preferably by email, to fiefiji@connect.com.fj We do expect this to be a popular CPD and the number of places will be limited.

Disaster and Risk Management Training Advisory Committee.

Certainly the FIE is now getting much more recognition with invitations and attendances at various meetings. Robin Palmer attended a Committee Meeting for Disaster and Risk Management Training Advisory Committee. A more detailed account of that meeting is given below.

The FIE was invited to attend and participate in the above meeting of the Committee. It is interesting to note that some of the items discussed at that meeting were similar to topics mentioned in the three SPEA papers, "The Role of Engineering in Sustainable Economic Development in the South Pacific", "Resilient Infrastructure and Disaster Management" and "The Needs for Engineering Education in the South Pacific"

We were all asked to talk briefly on our involvement. Comments made by the FIE were that although it was good to see programmes being developed at the Fiji National University (FNU) there was a great need to go into the schools and to start the training there. The National Fire Authority had carried out some work at a school. The FIE commended them for that work and hoped that they would continue at other schools.

The FNU appeared to have an extensive programme, the FIE offered to carry out vetting of their engineering programmes for them.

We were rather stunned to find out that the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) did not have a list of suitably qualified Engineers who could be called upon at the time of a national emergency to carry out immediate first aid inspections. A list was drawn up and submitted to the NDMO following the agreement of each listed member.

It was acknowledged that The National Building Code for Fiji did need to be updated.

National Integrated Coastal Management Framework.

Pratarp and Robin attended a two day workshop for the National Integrated Coastal Management Framework on 29 and 30 April. That was of considerable interest but not much for the FIE at this stage.

Access to Adequate, Decent and Affordable Housing for all Fiji Citizens.

Pratarp and James Raman attended a one day seminar by the Ministry of Local Government & Housing on Affordable Housing on 7 May on "Access to Adequate, Decent and Affordable Housing for all Fiji Citizens"

UNICEF

Following on from cyclone Tomas, there was an approach by UNICEF for the FIE to accompany them to assess four schools, two on Vanua Levu and two on Taveuni. As there was no time to discuss this with the Council, Robin went with UNICEF to carry out that assessment work. The schools targeted were those that had some damage from the cyclone, were remote, were boarding schools and had reported cases of diarrhoea and typhoid. FIE are currently in dialogue with UNICEF for remunerated assistance.

Cyclone Tomas.

Although this may seem a long time ago, but still considered to be of interest, it is also in connection with the aftermath from cyclone Tomas. The FIE was able to view the raw footage taken from the air and some from the ground by Fiji Television in various areas that were in the path of the cyclone. The damage sustained to properties did seem to show a common pattern. Although we have not inspected properties on the ground, we were able to see from the Fiji TV footage that there were signs of inadequate construction to withstand strong winds. Those were largely due to failures of the roof fixings and tie downs of the roof structures to the outer walls and in the case of timber houses, the train of tie downs through to the foundations.

FIE Promotions.

Our President has been rather busy as usual and out promoting the FIE with presentations at the USP and at Kramer. As Pratarp Singh, he has also indicated sponsorship for 20 final year undergraduates at USP for their first year FIE membership and intends to do the same at a similar presentation soon

to be given to the FNU. The presentation at both the USP and Kramer was well received. In the case of Kramer, a donation cheque to the FIE was certainly a surprise and unexpected, but gratefully received. In addition to all this, Pratarp is providing ongoing assistance to both the USP and FNU on re-evaluation leading to accreditation of their engineering programmes.

Commerce Commission.

Pratarp recently made a submission to the Commerce Commission regarding structural steel imports where our wide eyed President spotted an imported steel channel that failed to comply with our normally used standards. The submission and discussion with the Commerce Commission was much appreciated. We also heard from a considered reliable source, of fluorescent tubes that although marked, “Philips” were, when checked after early failures, found to be fake.

FIE Website.

The FIE has engaged a designer to prepare a website for the FIE. This will be a simple to negotiate site containing up to date information, including newsletters, announcements and downloadable membership application forms etc. We shall keep you informed on the development of this.

One thing we would like to include is the date when the FIE was actually formed, unfortunately we do not have any records going back that far. Can any member enlighten us on that point please? If so an email giving any information to the FIE office will be much appreciated.

Membership.

We are pleased to announce that the following candidates having fulfilled the various requirements are now eligible to join the FIE.

Graduates:

Danish Bhan, Ron Rajiv Prasad, Harish Anand Sudh, Rajneel Sharma
Ron Rajiv Prasad, Sanjesh Deo.

Diplomates:

Hasneet Narayan, Krishneel Datt Mishra, Isoa Tuimasaqalau Tupua,

Student:

Abdul Shameer Aziz

The following now applies 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.

Low-High-Low Standardised Cyclic Test Method for Cyclonic Areas

All structural engineers please note that all cladding materials, windows, doors and roller shutter doors specified should conform to the Low-High-Low requirements as detailed in the attached document from the James Cook University testing station. Please be aware of this requirement when specifying products and considering alternatives.