

Training course aims to address ethical needs

It is widely understood that engineering is at the centre of many of society's most challenging and contentious issues.

And if Britain is to meet the Government's target of an 80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050, then from energy generation to transport policy, virtually every area of society will be affected by the decisions which engineers will make in coming years.

However, in the need to balance powerful, legitimate and competing needs, such 'ethical' decisions require a sound understanding of the fairest way to distribute costs and benefits to different groups

within society. In the past, there has not been much training to help engineers to meet these increasing ethical expectations.

So, the IDEA Centre at the University of Leeds has developed a training course – professional ethics for professional engineers – in order to help engineers deal with these ethical issues in their working lives.

The course has been running for almost two years, and has helped 60 professional engineers to improve their ability to understand and implement the ethical standards of the profession.

☎: www.idea.leeds.ac.uk/proeng

End of exam time

City & Guilds' EC examinations will be discontinued from October 2011, with the last re-sit scheduled for May 2012.

Since 2001, the City & Guilds has managed the EC examinations under contract from the Engineering Council as an important education means for those unable to access higher education.

However, they have been used mainly for overseas, not UK, students, and now the C&G is to explore other ways to serve this market.

Questions should be addressed to City & Guilds @ ec_enquiries@cityandguilds.co.uk

Localised 'Chapter 8'

The 3 Counties Alliance Partnership (3CAP) has launched a localised version of Chapter 8 of the *Traffic signs manual*. Called *The code of practice for temporary traffic management at road works*, the document is the first of its kind in the UK.

Once it is formally agreed and issued, this localised code of practice is expected to become an important document to assist local authorities with ensuring the safety of the travelling public and their workforces during work on the public highway.

Information is available from Dave Tebbett FIHIE, Nottinghamshire CC. ☎: 01623 520037.

Mandelson orders review of construction sector

Lord Mandelson has announced a strategic review of construction, with an innovation growth team (IGT) to be established by Keith Clarke, chief executive of Atkins and chairman of the CIC.

In recent years, IGTs have worked in several sectors – aerospace, automotive, biotechnology and chemicals – to encourage the creation of a strategic view on the innovation challenges to future competitiveness.

Consequently, the IGT for construction is expected to: Assess the impact of the new industry,

new jobs' agenda on industry performance; conduct a SWOT analysis – a strategic planning method to evaluate the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to a project – of the UK construction industry; identify the barriers to improved performance; and consider how the UK construction can take forward the low carbon agenda.

The Government has also finally agreed to appoint a chief construction adviser in response to pressure from the industry and the select committee.

Institute takes joint approach to *Manual* work

IHIE and Leeds City Council are to discuss when and how *Manual for streets* can be applied in new developments, in busier urban roads and in rural areas, and are inviting engineers to join them.

The debate in Leeds on 20 October will hear from industry speakers who include Richard Fitter of Entran, Phil Cook from TMS Consultancy, and Stuart Reid of MVA Consultancy.

A similar event was held in

London earlier this year – and stopping sight distances dominated the debate. This is an opportunity for those in the North and Midlands to have their say.

- Are you restricting MfS principles to roads with speeds 40mph? 35mph?;
- Are you still demanding higher visibility splays?;
- Do you distrust the research behind MfS?; or
- Have you embraced *Manual for*

streets wholeheartedly?

Practice across the country is variable and IHIE is, therefore, providing this opportunity for professionals to discuss what is happening and why, and to consider how to fill the gap between *Manual for streets* and the *Design manual for roads and bridges*. Members of the Department for Transport will attend to hear the views.

☎: www.equalityhumanrights.com/constructioninquiry

training & development

● Preparing for your review*

4 November, Birmingham

In-depth advice and support in going for IEng and EngTech.

*Credit crunch rate of two for one.

● Highway asset management – introduction course

2 November, or 8 February

● Highway asset management – practitioner training

3–5 November and 9–11 February

(six days residential)

In-depth training delivered by expert consulting. Includes an assessment and can lead to an IHIE professional certificate. Courses are available in-house or for local consortia at reduced rates.

● Highway maintenance

13 October, Northampton

The postponed IHIE/Highways annual conference and exhibition on innovation and sustainability. Speakers on asset management, drainage and service delivery.

● Highway law

3 December, London

A course for road design, maintenance and development engineers delivered by barristers from 4–5 Gray's Inn.

● Traffic signal control

26–28 April, Nottingham (residential)

IHIE's annual course on implementation and maintenance for signal engineers.

Cost: £895 if booked before 30 January.