

## Monthly round-up of news from the Institute of Highway Engineers



FOCUS

### Professional engineers keep their jobs – despite recession

The Engineering Council's recent survey of registered engineers provides sound evidence that those holding the professional engineering qualifications Chartered Engineer (CEng), Incorporated Engineer (IEng) or Engineering Technician (EngTech), are likely to have held on to their jobs during the recession.

Asked about their employment status, only 1.5% of respondents were 'unemployed and

seeking re-employment' in May this year, which sits well below the national unemployment figure of 7.3%.

Andrew Ramsay, chief executive of the Engineering Council says: 'It would be amazing if registered engineers had not suffered some effects from the cold economic climate, but the message from this survey, although a big increase on the 0.6% in this category in 2007,

seems to be that qualified engineers are still in demand in the UK.

The survey also revealed that all levels of registrant had seen a rise in total earnings since 2007; up 10% for CEngs, 6% for IEngs and 12% for EngTechs. Median annual total earnings in 2010 were £55,000 for CEngs, £43,000 for IEngs, and £37,000 for EngTechs.

☎: <http://tinyurl.com/3ywjuyk>

### Motorcyclists' survival guide

A new safety film aimed at motorcycle commuters is now online ☎: [www.lighththefuse.co.uk/commuter\\_biker](http://www.lighththefuse.co.uk/commuter_biker). The *Commuter survival guide* is designed to illustrate riding techniques, and reading the

road skills which can contribute to bikers making safe progress through urban environments.

The film brings elements of road craft to life and utilises line-drawn imagery to explore traffic and hazard scenarios.

### Sign manual offers new direction

IHE has published a much-expanded version of its popular *Sign structures Guide*.

Supported by the Highways Agency, the guide is the definitive reference for those designing and specifying traffic signs, helping them navigate the numerous and regularly-changing codes and standards.

There is a new chapter on passive safety – plus other new material on foundations on slopes, an introduction to wind-funnelling effects, and spread foundation design to Eurocode 7 which, together with other structural Eurocodes, became mandatory earlier this year for public works.

The whole guide, authored by Simon Morgan, of Buchanan Computing; Jim Gallagher, of the Highways Agency; and Kirsten Morris, of Mott MacDonald, has



been thoroughly revised, with additional diagrams and illustrations.

Download from ☎: [www.theihe.org/knowledge-network/traffic-sign-design/resources-1/](http://www.theihe.org/knowledge-network/traffic-sign-design/resources-1/) or for a FREE hard copy send a £1.50 SAE to IHE.

### Larger streams to fund transport

The Government announced that, in line with its localism agenda, it intends to pool the centrally-funded local transport grants to create fewer but larger funding streams which are largely formula-based.

Local transport authorities outside London will be asked to develop packages of measures which support economic growth and reduce carbon in their communities, as well as delivering cleaner environments, improved

safety and increased levels of physical activity.

Measures could include encouraging walking and cycling, initiatives to improve integration between travel modes and end-to-end journey experiences, better public transport, and improved traffic-management schemes.

Funding for the Local Sustainable Transport Fund will be set aside from within the department's overall funding allocation, following conclusion of the Spending Review.

### Road safety lessons 'fall short'

In a new report, published by the RAC Foundation, Professor Frank McKenna, of the University of Reading, calls for a 'fundamental reassessment of how road safety education is implemented and evaluated'

In the report, *Education in road safety: Are we getting it right?*, Prof McKenna says that while road safety educational schemes are plausible, evidence shows that many are ineffective – and much more evidence needs to

be collected to show which ones actually work.

'Educational interventions are often designed in the absence of theory or any formal body of evidence.'

He goes on to claim that there is a growing impatience at the role of education in professional circles, with some arguing that educational measures serve to divert attention and resources away from other safety measures which might achieve better results.

### New credit values launched for BTEC HNC

New credit values, applicable from September 2010, downgrade the BTEC HNC from 150 to 125 credits in England and Wales. Log on to ☎: [www.edexcel.com/quals/highernationals/10/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.edexcel.com/quals/highernationals/10/Pages/default.aspx)

From 2010, the NEW HNC Civils has eight units worth either 15 or 20 credits generating 125 credits, equivalent to the

completion of the first year of a degree. Programmes must contain 90 credits at level 4. There is no significant change between the old and the new unit contents and outcomes.

An HND comprises QCF level 4, 5 and 6 units, and at 240 credits, remains equivalent to the second year of a degree. An HND must have at least 125 credits at level 5.

### Web-based tool to protect pupils goes live

Stilwell Road Safety has launched a new web-based road safety tool for schools as a not-for-profit social enterprise.

'srsCULTURE for schools helps teachers promote road safety by addressing the current void in safety education', said Nick Stilwell, programme inventor. Contact: [njs@srsCULTURE.co.uk](mailto:njs@srsCULTURE.co.uk)

### What qualifications do I need?

Puzzled about which IHE grade is for you?

Want to know how you can progress to EngTech, IEng or CEEng?

Look up your qualifications in IHE's new handy guide. The guide lists most common academic qualifications, and

explains which IHE grade they access and how to go on to gain Engineering Council registration.

While on the IHE website, view Rachael Langfield talking about what IEng has meant for her and passing on her Review tips at ☎: [www.theihe.org](http://www.theihe.org)

### Survey reveals lack of awareness about IEng

The work of the Engineering Council IEng marketing group continues to gather pace.

The results of the second survey, sent to individuals identified as being eligible for IEng but not registered, from seven professional engineering institutions (PEIs), have now been analysed.

Designed to discover why they either haven't applied for IEng or have started but not completed the registration process, it looked at awareness and attitudes towards IEng and the progressive structure.

A total of 1917 members responded. Of these, 928 – who were not already registered, but aware of IEng – including 62 from IHE, completed the

whole survey. Key findings were:

- a lack of awareness of both IEng generally, and about the requirements for eligibility. A surprising number of members weren't sure whether or not they were registered with the Engineering Council
- those who were aware of IEng mostly knew of it through their PEI or by reading an engineering journal
- 269 claimed not to be aware that they could register for IEng through their PEI
- 70% believed they were eligible for IEng, but a large number hadn't realised this prior to receiving the survey or hadn't got around to applying
- 47% of respondents felt their

employer would value them being registered

- 46% claimed they were only interested in achieving CEEng registration
- when asked how the Engineering Council and the PEIs could encourage IEng registration, the most popular response was that the profile should be raised across the profession.

A detailed IEng promotional plan has now been drafted, using different messages for different market segments, which will allow us to start the process.

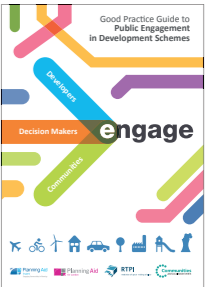
However, as employer engagement is key to the promotion of registration, a further piece of research will be carried out through employer focus groups, before some key activities can start.

### Engaging guide to draw in the public

☎: [www.rtpi.org.uk/download/9516/PAE\\_good\\_practice\\_guide.pdf](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/download/9516/PAE_good_practice_guide.pdf)

For developers, communities and decision-makers, one of the biggest challenges in taking forward a development scheme is to ensure that public engagement is meaningful, inclusive and benefits all involved.

Planning Aid has published the *Good practice guide to public engagement in development schemes*, which provides practical advice supported by real examples.



### diary dates

#### ● Annual development control conference

Postponed to 26 January 2011, London WC1

#### ● Preparing for your review

14 April 2011, London WC2  
Take the opportunity to upgrade your qualifications and prepare for the future. Course covers CEEng, IEng and EngTech and IHE's Professional Certificates.

#### ● Road maintenance – Scotland

27 April 2011, Glasgow  
A conference and Exhibition in association with *Highways*

#### ● Transport development control 2011

Six-day foundation course. Date to be arranged

Delivered by TMS, the course provides comprehensive foundation training for new consultants and local authority staff. Delegates' knowledge and competence are assessed via subsequent project work. Students gain a grounding in the development-management process, how to deal with a planning application, the role of audits in the design process, road safety, transport assessments, sustainable transport issues and junction design and assessment. *Manual for streets* and sustainability objectives are embedded in the interactive course. Success can lead to the IHE Professional Certificate in Development Management.

### MEMBER FOCUS: John Dymott

The second 2010 Award of Merit, recognising the contribution of members to the work of the institute, was presented to John Dymott at the IHE's Winchester annual general meeting.

Mr Dymott joined in 1991 as an IEng from the Institute of Incorporated Engineers – now IET – and was a member of IHE Council from 1996 for six years, when he drafted reviewer guidance on the health

and safety six pack and CDM regulations.

However, it is as a long-standing servant of South Western branch that Mr Dymott is best known.

Presenting the award, president Steve Spender, said: 'It is members like John Dymott who keep the wheels turning, enabling us to deliver IHE services locally.'

Mr Dymott was a member of South Western branch commit-



tee for many years. He served as secretary during the 1990s – also chairman) – and recently stepped in again when no-one else came forward, for which the branch is very grateful.

His earlier career was with BT, where involvement in safety and streetworks enabled him to move across into highways, where he most recently worked in Hampshire for Mott Gifford.

### France takes top honours at awards ceremony

Sanderson Associates won the SME Award at the Yorkshire and Humber Construction Best Practice Awards award ceremony.

Alison France FIHE, Sanderson's managing director (pictured right), said: 'For the efforts of everyone within our company to be recognised in such a difficult

economic climate shows our efforts are recognised at the highest level.

'To be awarded the SME Award is fantastic news for our company and to be shortlisted for two other awards for which we were "highly commended" is something to which I and all our staff are extremely proud.

