RECORD OF A MEETING OF THE CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL
Held on 11th October 2013 at The Building Services Engineering Centre,
Balham, London SW12 9BS

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The President George Adams welcomed members to the Council meeting. In particular he welcomed international visitors, Raymond Chan (President of HKIE) and Thomas Chan (Past Chair of CIBSE Hong Kong), and from ASHRAE Bill Bahnfleth (President) and Jeff Littleton (Executive Vice-President).

ASHRAE

ASHRAE President Bill Bahnfleth addressed the meeting, thanking the President for his welcome. He thanked CIBSE for hosting the annual visit of the ASHRAE President, which was part of an important relationship between the organisations. He described his theme for the year, emphasising that ASHRAE and CIBSE were both part of a global community, and describing ASHRAE’s developments as a global organisation. Ways of working with CIBSE in that environment were being explored, particularly in parts of the world where there were groupings of both CIBSE and ASHRAE members.

He went on to talk about issues of indoor air quality, noting that whilst environmental and energy issues were important, there was a first responsibility to those who used the buildings created by the industry.

Regarding challenges, there were a number of issues for ASHRAE regarding the development of standards, with an increasing emphasis on health based issues such as legionella. ASHRAE was developing its participation in conferences outside North America, including events in the Philippines and Rome, as well as working with CIBSE on the Technical Symposium. He noted that similar themes emerged both in America and the UK regarding the future of the industry and that there were opportunities to work together to encourage people into the industry, and to provide volunteer effort. The importance of promoting volunteering to employers was pointed out. Bill Bahnfleth went on to refer to education, which seemed to generate similar issues in North America and in many other countries.

Questions were invited from members, and it was agreed that more emphasis from funders was needed on the importance of air quality and environmental health. Hywel Davies confirmed that more could be done to try to influence the Building Regulations to take greater account of health and air quality issues.

Bill Bahnfleth felt that there was cause for optimism, as there were many similar issues in all the countries he visited, and therefore much scope for joint working. He hoped to set things in motion during his Presidency that would continue into the future.

HKIE

Raymond Chan thanked CIBSE for its welcome to the Council meeting, expressing the importance of engineers working together to address climate change and growing populations. He informed members of the history of HKIE, which now had a membership of over 30,000 and with a very significant Building Services Division. Co-operation with CIBSE had been strong over the years, and with the CIBSE Hong Kong Branch, and he looked forward to this continuing.
INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Hong Kong

John Cheung presented a report on the activities of the CIBSE Hong Kong Branch. These included the regular on-going work of the Branch including driving membership, which stood at 2,500. CIBSE had opportunities and strengths in Hong Kong, including recognition by government, first class information, and international experience. Membership fees were however higher, and the Registered Professional Engineer title might prove a threat.

He went on to outline the Branch’s activities during the year, but nothing that the PRC-HK joint symposium had been delayed until next year. A number of other activities including the Hong Kong Joint Symposium were going ahead.

The Branch had sponsored a number of significant pieces of research, and YEN activity also remained strong. Numerous government consultations had been considered and responses made, and an outline was given on the Branch’s activities to promote CIBSE in mainland China. This had included a visit to SAST in Shanghai, which had resulted in a paper being presented by the branch at the Shanghai Symposium.

Regarding new initiatives, it was planned to distribute the branch newsletter more widely, and it was hoped to develop the website. Plans were in hand to enhance the capabilities of the Branch in its structure and strategy. More collaboration was planned with the PolyU and departments of HKSAR, with a government coordinator role being created. Special events were planned to promote Graduate / Associate membership, as it was felt that there was scope for increased membership in these grades, and further promotion of the Knowledge Portal was planned.

CIBSE Ireland

Sean Dowd presented the report of CIBSE Ireland, outlining events of the last year including the Irish Young Lighter competition held at DIT Kevin Street. Joint events had been held with a number of other organisations, such as the lecture on BIM held at the Royal College of Physicians. In conjunction with DIT, the SDAR Journal Issue 2 had been launched, and Issue 3 would appear in November 2013. The Annual Lunch in December had been a success, with a guest speaker from Carillion Energy.

A membership lecture had been held in January, and the region was represented at the Young Scientist Exhibition, with Pearl Mensah attending both events. Site visits had been held, including to the new Mater Hospital extension organised with the Irish Green Building Council, which had also cooperated on the site visit to zero carbon supermarket.

The region provided speakers at the SEAI energy show, and the Annual Conference at Croke Park, which has been an international lighting conference, had been a success. A summer barbeque event had been held for YEN, which had attracted many new contacts, and a past Chairs dinner had been held, with Sean Mulcahy, the 1969 chair, attending.

Members were informed of other social events held, and of planned events being held in the next few months, in particular the CIBSE ASHRAE Technical Symposium in April 2014.

Australia & New Zealand

Peter Kinsella presented the report on behalf of the Region. He reported that building services firms in Australia had been badly hit by a dramatic fall in construction, and whilst there were some signs of improvement, it would take time.

The Region was aware that in both Australia and New Zealand, engineers of all disciplines were represented by single institutions. These bodies had not served Building Services well in the past, however they have come under pressure to do more. CIBSE ANZ did not have the resources to
 fill the gap, but had in the past benefited from the lack of activity. It was now felt necessary for the region to reconsider its strategy and do things differently, with issues of diversity and gender being addressed in addition to the threat from IEAust an IPENZ. The age distribution of members in the region was a concern, with few young members although YEN was a positive development. It was felt, however, that there was an opportunity to change direction and address these issues.

The challenges of the geography of the region were also noted, and the very wide climatic range covered. Further information would be provided on the outcome of the strategic review.

In response to questions concerning structural engineering support needed for the rebuilding in Christchurch, and whether this extended to building service needs, it was noted that the first priority was for good guidance on seismic restraints for mechanical services. Australia had some guidance on the subject, but more was required. It was agreed that this guidance should be reviewed, and it was suggested that this could be of joint interest to ASHRAE, in view of American west coast requirements.

Peter Kinsella also reported on the 25th Anniversary celebration event, which had been very successful.

**PANEL AND NETWORK REPORTS**

**Women in Building Services Engineering Network**

Sarah Davis presented the WiBSE Report, explaining that the network had been established a year ago. There was a real skills shortage in the UK, with large number of new engineers and scientists needed. Boosting the number of women engineers could make a great contribution to this, and the industry needed to be agile for the future and enable more women to join, stay and progress in the profession. The WiBSE steering group reported to the Diversity Panel, had its own microsite and email address, and primarily operated through its Linkedin Group. It sought to engage CIBSE with other professions promoting gender diversity, and to run regular events to promote membership, addressing gender imbalance.

In the year since it was formed, WiBSE had gained 450 CIBSE members and over 500 followers on Twitter. 170 senior industry figures had attended the launch event with support from B&ES and Lux. Further events had been held, including the Dare to Dream event, the Managing as a Woman event in Manchester, the WiBSE Masterclass on career opportunities in Manchester, the Project Catalyst pilot in London, a shopping and networking event, and a women in property joint event with help from Merseyside and North Wales Region. WiBSE had also contributed to the built environment category award, and a joint event had been held in Birmingham.

Plans for the remainder of the year were described, leading up to the Women of Achievement award winners’ lunch.

For 2014, the peer to peer mentoring project would be developed further with qualified mentoring coaches running the programme. A number of confidence workshops would be held and much interest had been expressed. Women in Leadership events would be held in Birmingham and Manchester, and informal networking events would also take place. A role model series would also be held and a number of speakers have been lined up.

Press coverage had been obtained in the CIBSE Journal and in Lux, and lists of women experts had been out forward. There had also been coverage in the national press.

WiBSE hoped that the CIBSE regions could help promote activities, and were also hoping for sponsorship assistance with meeting costs. All were encourage to attend events, which were all open to both men and women.

Regarding the encouragement of girls to take up engineering, the Class of your Own initiative was mentioned, and also other initiatives being targeted.
Young Engineers Network

Jonathan Page presented the report of the Young Engineers network, outlining the objectives of the network which sought to get young engineers to engage with the Institution. YEN centres existed in most regions, with several new centres established this year and a number of new centres proposed, both in the UK and overseas. There were well over 5000 members, with CIBSE members under 35 being automatically enrolled. YEN also had non-CIBSE members, who were to be encouraged to join the Institution.

Collaboration with other groupings such as WiBSE and the Heritage Group was planned, and with other Institutions, both in the UK and outside such as ASHRAE. Promotion of building services was a key issue, with participation at the Big Bang event, and at other events for young people in the regions. Involvement with careers fairs had also been positive, and liaison with universities was of great importance.

It was noted that there was much interest in YEN networks amongst other Institutions.

Diversity Panel

Rafay Hasan introduced the report, noting that the Diversity panel was created in 2012, reporting directly to the Board and with members from different grades and all over the world. The panel met quarterly in London.

The Panel supported CIBSE Strategic objectives, in terms of attracting and retaining talent, improving the perception of engineering careers and increasing women in membership. The Panel was concerned with inclusiveness and hoped to collect much more data on the profile of the CIBSE membership. It sought to identify opportunities and barriers to participation by people with disabilities.

The importance of making all members welcome to the institution was of great importance, and providing for special needs where necessary. Publicity and images used should be inclusive and promote diversity, and consideration should be given to events highlighting the importance of diversity. Role models from under-represented groups should be sought, and active support provided.

It was noted that a working relationship was being developed with RIBA, and embracing other Institutions and George Adams confirmed the work that was being done in this area.

It was suggested that more diversity could be reflected in the designs for the new CIBSE website and it was agreed that this would be considered further.

The presence in YEN and WiBSE of non-members of CIBSE was noted, and it was felt that this reflected the support offered by those networks. It was felt that this should be considered further to find ways to encourage more of those people to join CIBSE, and it was hoped that this would develop over time.

MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

The issue of Licentiate membership was raised, and the perception that this was sometimes regarded as a second class grade of membership. It was noted that this tied in with Technician registration work being done by Engineering Council in which CIBSE was involved, and agreed it should be considered further. It was pointed out that issues also existed around IEng for similar reasons.

Geoff Prudence suggested that updates from Groups might be considered for future Council meetings. Andy Ford pointed out the importance of communication between groups and the Knowledge Sub-Committee to help develop the delivery of knowledge for the future. It was suggested that CIBSE should do more to engage with the FM community and to address the issue of integration.
Regarding Biomass Heating, Colin Ashford reported that CIBSE’s guidance would be issued shortly but had been delayed due to a number of concerns about the effectiveness of certain arrangements of biomass boilers when run in conjunction with conventional boilers. It was noted that this issue of flow dilution needed to be carefully considered for biomass installations. It was also noted that there were some safety issues in certain circumstances which needed to be considered. It was suggested that ways be found to highlight these issues in the Institution’s published information, or through the journal; it was also suggested that the issue should be brought to the attention of the regions. A knowledge bank might be established to deal with such information, although it was noted that it could be commercially sensitive; however there was a system for this within Structural engineering, where there was a mechanism for safety concerns to be raised on an anonymous basis, and there had been discussions about its possible extension to building services. It was suggested that participation in the system ought to be reviewed and this was agreed.

Stephen Matthews drew attention to the Chief Executive’s report, and invited any questions arising to be raised outside the meeting. He drew attention to the CIBSE Journal IPad app which had now been launched, and invited all who had not done so to use it. This reflected the Institution’s development of its electronic delivery of information.

Regarding working with ASHRAE, Frank Mills reported that he was chairing the ASHRAE cold climate design group, and he invited others to participate. It was also noted that REHVA was undertaking cold climate design work, and that there was also a CIBSE group looking at this issue. It was agreed that cooperation should be encouraged between all three groupings.

Reference was made to the Young Engineers Awards held earlier in the week which had been a very successful event. There had been ten finalists of a very good standard, and members were encouraged to refer to the published information.

Hywel Davies raised an issue introduced by Doug King, questioning whether Building Performance Award entrants could be required to put their entries on Carbon Buzz, which would provide direct comparison and boost the Carbon Buzz database. It was noted that this had been discussed as an option this year, however it was felt there was a serious risk that not many entries would be received as increased demands for performance data had already made it more challenging to obtain entries. It was suggested that more in depth studies of buildings in use might be considered for winners.

The President thanked members for their contributions, and declared the meeting closed.