

ICE review

A review of recent and forthcoming developments and events at the Institution of Civil Engineers by ICE communications director Anne Moir. For further information please contact the communications office on 020 7665 2196.

State of the Nation 2004



The ICE published its 2004 *State of the Nation* report on 15 June. The report is compiled each year by a panel of ICE experts to stimulate debate and highlight the actions they believe are needed to improve the nation's infrastructure. It covers transport, energy, water and flooding, waste, urban regeneration and overall sustainability.

One of the main findings of this year's report is that up to 2300 new waste treatment facilities need to be operational by 2020 to avoid a major crisis involving millions of tonnes of untreated waste. Introduction of these facilities, which could cost £30 billion, create thousands of jobs and take five years to come on-line, is being stalled by a combination of public animosity, Government prevarication and industry nervousness, says ICE.

In grading all aspects of the UK's infrastructure, the Institution concludes there has been little or no improvement in all areas over the past year and gives a low overall grading of D+. It calls for a number of actions to remedy the situation, in particular the appointment of an independent Chief Engineering Adviser to ensure a co-ordinated, long-term, sustainable approach to infrastructure planning rather than decision-making being dominated by political short-termism. The position would be similar in remit to the Government's Chief Medical Officer or Chief Scientific Adviser.

The report is on the ICE website at http://www.ice.org.uk/downloads/SoN_2004.pdf.

Engineering without Frontiers

ICE president Doug Oakervee has set up a commission led by Professor Paul Jowitt to ask

- what does society expect of an engineer in the 21st century and how should the engineering profession respond to these expectations?
- what are the critical actions and partnerships needed to ensure care for the earth and achievement of the UN Millennium development goals?

After holding a series of evidentiary hearings at the Royal Academy of Engineering on 21 May, the 'Engineering without Frontiers' commission presented its initial recommendations at the ICE annual conference in Cambridge on 21-23 July.

If you would like to contribute your views, please e-mail engineering-without-frontiers@sistech.co.uk.

Agenda for London



Just prior to the mayoral election in June, the ICE published a report entitled *London: Agenda for Change*. It was distributed to the Greater London Authority, all London boroughs and a number of key organisations and individuals across London.

Produced by ICE's London region, which represents the capital's 3000 professional civil engineers, the report presented their views on the best way to create and maintain an environment fit for the 21st century and for future generations. It covered the main areas of London's infrastructure including transport, waste, flood defence and energy.

Transport recommendations included greater integration of networks and land-use planning, including bringing major roads from the M25 and commuter rail routes into London under mayoral control.

The report is on the ICE website at http://www.ice-london.org.uk/london/documents/Agenda_for_Change_2004.pdf.

What is civil engineering?

The ICE hopes to produce a new publication called *What is civil engineering?* It will promote understanding of the profession amongst the general public and will be widely distributed to schools, universities, engineering-based visitor attractions (such as the Falkirk Wheel), libraries and community centres.

The publication will challenge the way society takes infrastructure for granted as well as the perception that the construction industry is not environmentally aware. It will also spell out the fundamental benefits of construction projects to our quality of life.

What is civil engineering? is an ambitious project, not least because of the volume of printed material required. ICE is currently offering sponsorship opportunities to companies in the construction sector to fund the project. If you would like to discuss sponsorship, please contact Emily Falconer in ICE Communications, telephone 020 7665 2108, email emily.falconer@ice.org.uk or visit www.ice.org.uk/wice.