

IESL Queensland Chapter

Queensland Chapter Update

Following three years of continued efforts from 2016 to 2019 towards establishing this youngest of the overseas Chapters with a robust governance framework and an expanding membership a new Management Committee took over its term in December 2019 with much optimism for 2020. However as all are aware the unprecedented global pandemic did not spare us here in Queensland constraining us in our planned activity and forcing a rethink of all our programs in 2020. Despite this impedance the Chapter has been able to cover fair ground on many fronts of its activities by timely communications with state government authorities, strengthening and reinforcing our virtual communication platforms and adapting to the online delivery mode for our membership development programs.

We held our second AGM on 1st of December 2019 wherein the following management committee was elected for the year 2020

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - 2019/2020



- ❖ Standing L to R - Dr Chanaka Abeysinghe (Member), Dr Wuditha Premadasa (Member), Dr Abdul Ziyath (Member), Eng Ajith Wickramaratne (Member), Eng Bandula Kapukotuwa (Member)
- ❖ Seated L to R - Eng Jagath Wanigasekera (Treasurer), Dr Sharmil Markar (Vice President), Eng Asoka Tittagala (President), Eng Jayantha Wickramatunga (Immediate PST President), Eng Nimal Pushpakumara (Secretary)
- ❖ Not in the picture – Dinuk Weerasekera (Editor)

SUB COMMITTEES

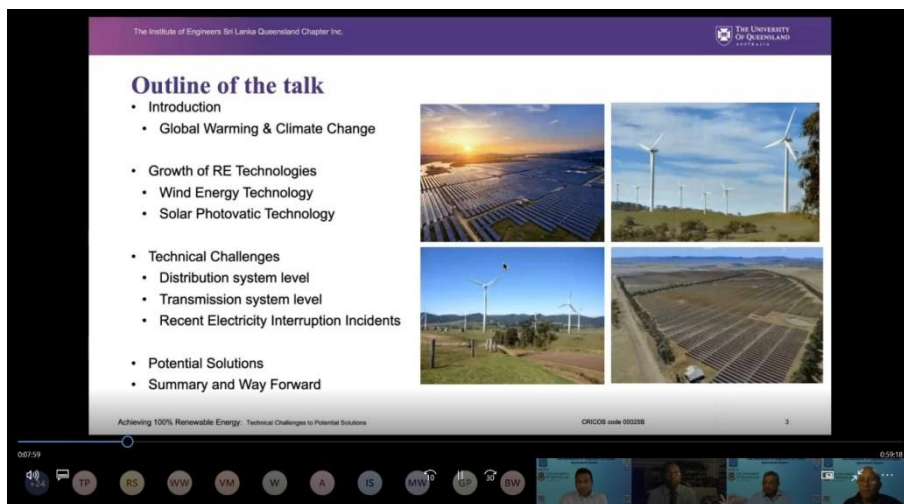
The five Subcommittees namely the Technical, Membership, Social, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and the Editorial Board had new members appointed to them. The role statements for each subcommittee were reviewed and updated where necessary. These set out the work in-scope for each subcommittee as well as the areas of exclusion for each.

ACTIVITIES DURING 2019/2020

Despite the pandemic restrictions in Queensland we were able to maintain business continuity of the Chapter with the conduct of virtual monthly meetings of the Management Committee. This initiative was very well supported by the Office of Fair Trading Queensland who want to see our members are connected at this difficult time. Seven Management Committee Meetings have been held to date (from December 2019 to August 2020). The following is a summary of our achievements:

(1) CPD Program

The Chapter's 8th CPD event planned by the Technical Sub Committee for May had to be changed to a virtual event to be delivered on 24th June 2020 in the Webinar mode. This was successfully undertaken as a first-time effort for the Chapter. An interesting presentation on the timely topic of "Renewable Energy" was delivered by Prof. Mithulan Nadarajah a subject specialist on Intelligent Integration of Renewable Distributed Generation. A worldwide audience of nearly 50 attendees participated also providing us with an opportunity to test the integrity of our new communications platforms to stage an event of this magnitude.



The presentation was made by Associate Professor Mithulan Nadarajah and was titled "Achieving 100% Renewable Energy – Technical Challenges and Potential Solutions".

Dr Mithulan Nadarajah is the Post-Graduate Coordinator and Director of Research Training at the School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering at University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia.

In his presentation, Mithulan imparted his knowledge and experience from years of research in the fields of electric power grids, power system integration, integration of renewable energy and electric vehicles. He highlighted the recent growth in renewable energy technologies in power systems and explained some of the technical challenges in achieving 100% renewable energy using two case studies from recent major power blackout incidents in renewable energy penetrated power systems in Australia and England. He then presented some of the emerging technologies and discussed the possible way forward to achieve a target of 100% renewable energy.

There was a lively Q&A between the presenter and the participants following the presentation. The Management Committee of the Chapter takes this opportunity to thank Mithulan for his excellent presentation, and to all participants for their attendance.

The presentation can be viewed using the link: <https://youtu.be/BlvahORicDs>

The Chapter's 9th CPD event is planned to be held in Webinar mode on 11th October 2020 related to "Waste Management". The topic is "Waste Management to Resource Recovery – How Can Engineers Contribute?"

This will be delivered by Associate Professor Sunil Herat from the Griffith University, Brisbane.

"Waste Management to Resource Recovery – How Can Engineers Contribute?"



The diagram illustrates the Circular Economy as a continuous loop. At the center is 'CIRCULAR ECONOMY'. Surrounding it are eight stages: RAW MATERIALS (top), DESIGN (top-right), MANUFACTURE (right), CONSUMPTION (bottom-right), MAINTENANCE (bottom), REUSE/REFURBISHMENT (bottom-left), RESIDUAL WASTE (left), and RECYCLING (top-left). Arrows connect these stages in a clockwise cycle, with a recycling symbol icon in the RECYCLING stage.

Date: Sunday, 11 October 2020
Time: 5.45 pm for 6.00 pm start (1 hour)

Presenter:
Assoc. Prof. Sunil Herat
Griffith University, Brisbane



(2) Membership

At present the membership count of the Chapter stands at 66 constituted as: 1 Hon Fellow Member, 2 Fellow Members; 19 Members, 13 Associate Members and 31 Resident Members. A new flyer has been developed by the membership Sub Committee and it is being circulated among engineers to attract them to the Chapter. During the year 2020 several new arrivals in Queensland gained Chapter membership. It was encouraging to note the increased participation of engineers from regional Queensland with their keenness to

gain Chapter membership and participate in Chapter activity. Unfortunately, two Members and six Associate Members of IESL lost their Chapter membership due to non-payment of their subscription fees and we are working with them to help renew their membership.

(3) ICT Projects

ICT Sub Committee encountered significant challenges at the very outset this year – on account of the pandemic forcing our members to work remotely and needing reliable communications and team collaboration to ensure continuity of Chapter business.

MS Teams platform was acquired and successfully implemented in March this year. All Management Committee meetings and Sub Committee meetings are now held through MS platform. The ICT Sub Committee has been busy with upgrading its ICT Platform by moving on to a new host which provides more capability of handling position-based emails and added security.

(4) Editorial Board/Newsletter

The Editorial Board released one mid-year Newsletter in June 2020.

A second Newsletter is planned to be released in November /December 2020

The Editorial Board membership strength has been increased to five members and is now reasonably representative of regional Queensland enabling input that should significantly enhance the coverage and quality of our Newsletter and the Website

(5) Social Events

The Social Sub Committee launched a fundraising raffle in December 2019. The pandemic restrictions impeded the progress and the Chapter had to discuss with the Office of Fair-Trading Queensland to extend its draw date by six months. It is now due to be drawn on 20 September 2020 offering prizes to the value of \$1200

The Chapter also participated in the first-time event of a Virtual Musical Fiesta organised by the IESL in July 2020 engaging all overseas and provincial Chapters simultaneously in a 5-hour musical extravaganza featuring three of our Chapter members' performances.

The Queensland Chapter performance can be accessed via the following link:

[IESL Music Fiesta July 2020 – Queensland Segment](#)



(6) The Chapter President's Engagements

6.1 Quarterly Online meetings with the IESL

As the President of the Queensland Chapter, I participated in two Online meetings of Overseas and Provincial Chapters Chaired by the President of IESL. I briefed the IESL Council representatives and the representatives from Provincial & Overseas Chapters, on the progress of our Chapter as of the date of meeting. Also, several important matters of mutual interest were discussed at these conferences.

6.2 Renewal of MRA between IESL and Engineers Australia

The Queensland Chapter took an active interest in the discussion held between Colombo and representatives from Australian Chapters on 14 July 2020. As the President of the Chapter I participated at the event with Immediate Past President, Eng Jayantha Wickramatunga. The Chapter expects revised MRA to become operational in the near future.

(7) Appreciation

I sincerely thank the IESL President, Professor Sarath Abayakoon and the Council for their favourable consideration and ongoing support to the Chapter. Our appreciation and gratitude are also extended to Eng Neil Abeysekera, CEO of IESL and his staff for their excellent ongoing support which we value a lot. Also, the Chapter appreciates ongoing support provided to us by the Brisbane City Council by way of providing us their meeting rooms to hold our meetings and CPD events and Radio 4EB in Brisbane for their media coverage.

I wish Eng K P I U Dharmapala who assumes duties as the President of IESL for 2020/21 and the newly elected Council the very best in the coming year.

(Reported by Eng Asoka Tittagala, President, IESL Queensland Chapter)