



Celebrating 125 years since our founding in 1887 and 40 years as a constituent society of the Engineering Institute of Canada



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Nous célébrons 125 années d'existence depuis notre création en 1887 et 40 années comme société membre de l'Institut canadien des ingénieurs

Jim Kells, PhD, PEng, FCSCE
President, Canadian Society for Civil Engineering
Email: Jim.Kells@usask.ca
or president@csce.ca
Tel: 306-966-5340
or 514-933-2634, ext 29

WELCOME

I suspect for most of us the colored leaves of fall have now given way to the first blasts of cold and snow in a season that we call winter. That is certainly the case here in Saskatoon. Regardless of the weather, however, our work with CSCE continues unabated, and indeed it is perhaps busier than what we experienced during the lazy days of summer only just weeks ago. I trust that your fall/winter season is going well.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Much of CSCE work of the past month for me has involved travel or the making of plans related to the travel. I had two trips, one to attend the ASCE annual conference and the other to the mainland of China.

The ASCE annual conference, its 142nd such event, was held outside of the USA for only the second time in its history in Montreal, October 17 - 20. The organization's last foray abroad was also to Montreal in 1974. This year's conference, which was attended by some 600 delegates, afforded me the opportunity to bring greetings from our Society at the opening ceremonies and to meet with a number of members of the ASCE senior leadership team, including outgoing President Andy Herrmann, incoming President Greg DiLoreto, President-Elect Andy Over, Executive Director Pat Natale, and many others. A key theme of President DiLoreto's acceptance speech was on the nation's infrastructure challenges, particularly that of funding, and the need to keep the focus on addressing this critical matter if our civil society is to continue to enjoy its current standard of living.

The theme of the ASCE conference was Civil Engineering in the New Global Economy. Topics for the several concurrent conference sessions included the global workplace, off-shoring of engineering design, infrastructure investment, infrastructure finance, risk management, construction safety, ethics of international practice, and many others. The opening plenary session featured David Lapin, author of *Lead by Greatness*, who spoke of various leadership styles and models that were developed from ancient wisdom and

cutting-edge strategic thinking. One of my take-away impressions from the conference was of the good work that ASCE and others are doing to attract and retain younger members of the profession, which is a challenge that we face equally as well.

As I write this e-letter, I am just now back from an 11-day trip abroad to China, which was a multi-faceted mission including work in my role as President of CSCE. In addition to CSCE, my trip was sponsored by the University of Saskatchewan, Tianjin University (China) and the Chinese Hydraulic Engineering Society (CHES). I am very grateful to the organizational leadership provided for the trip by our International Vice-President, Dr. Todd Chan, and by our Special Envoy to China, Dr. Jeanne Huang. Without the participation of these two individuals, it would have been nigh on impossible to have such a 'mission' go as smoothly as was the case. I must also make mention of the wonderful hospitality shown to me, and also to my wife Marlene, by many people in China including several graduate students in both Tianjin and Beijing. Other CSCE members on the trip were Dr. Ron Droste, Chair of our International Affairs Committee, and Dr. Ed McBean.

Aside from participating in a one-day international water forum at Tianjin University, I attended and brought welcoming remarks to the opening ceremonies of the annual conference of CHES, which was held in Wuhan. I also made a technical presentation at the international session of the conference, which was attended by delegates from the USA, Singapore, Korea, Canada and China. CSCE is currently making plans to participate as a co-organizer of the 2014 CHES conference, which will be held in Tianjin. Discussions were held in respect of this upcoming event with Secretary General, Li Zantang, during our visit. At the CHES conference, I also had the opportunity to meet with the Society's President, Jing Zhengshu, and later, in Beijing, to meet Prof. Senior Engineer, Dai Dingzhong, former Secretary General of CHES and a former Director in China's Ministry of Water Resources. Prof. Dai was a key player in the mid-1980s in the establishment of the relationship between CHES and CSCE.

In Beijing, we had meetings with senior officials of the South-North Project office, including Chief Engineer Shen Feng Sheng and Director General, Li Yong. This massive, multi-year project has presented the designers with many technical challenges, including that of operation during winter ice periods, large sediment loads in diversion channels, weak soils, and pollution management. Some of you may recall Li Yong's excellent presentation on this project made at our annual conference in Ottawa in 2011. We anticipate that there may be some excellent opportunities for CSCE members to provide expertise to this project. Interested technical experts are invited to contact CSCE for more information. As well, we were also able to meet with senior officials of the China Association for International Exchange of Personnel (CAIEP), including Director Liu Yongzhi and Vice-Director Xu Haoqing. This organization, which is also affiliated with the State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs (SAFEA), is very interested in sponsoring training opportunities for Chinese practitioners. CSCE is interested in becoming one of CAIEP's accredited training institutions.

Aside from my travels, I want to make special mention of the technical presentation that long-time CSCE member, Garry Mak, graciously made to the members of our Hong Kong Branch on November 8. When I learned of Garry's plans to visit his home country a number of weeks ago, we discussed the possibility of him delivering a technical talk to the Branch as one small step toward strengthening our unique relationship. I am very happy to report that Garry was very generously hosted by the Branch and that his visit and technical presentation were very warmly received by the members in attendance.

Particular thanks are extended to Paul Pang, Branch Chair, Brian Wong, Technical Program Chair, and Kelvin Cheung for facilitating Garry's visit. If other CSCE members have plans to travel to Hong Kong and would be interested in such an initiative, we would be more than happy to facilitate connections with our Branch leadership.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

We are now in full swing for the planning of the fall workshop and meeting of the Board of Directors to be held December 1 and 2 in Montreal. President-Elect Yves Cadotte will lead the workshop, which will focus on the initiatives being undertaken at the Board level as part of our Vision 2020 plan for the future. At the Board meeting, we will be approving our fiscal year-end financial statements for 2011-12 and also the budget for 2012-13. We will also be reviewing our revenue-sharing formula for specialty conferences, our policy on national budget and financial management, our continuance as a not-for-profit organization as per the recent changes made by the Canada Revenue Agency, and a number of other items.

The dues notices for 2013 will soon be going out to all of our members. I urge you to make an effort to be prompt on sending in your renewal payment. As was the case last year, you can make your payment easily online! Please refer to your renewal notice for instructions. It is through our many collective efforts to embrace all aspects of our Society's activities that we will be successful!

VISION 2020: Our plans for the future

The three strategic directions that will guide and inform our decision-making over the next several years in realizing our mission and vision include:

- Strategic Direction #1: enhanced services to members (focus on improved programming for our members, including many of our traditional activities)
- Strategic Direction #2: growing with youth (focus on students and young professionals and their career development aspirations and needs)
- Strategic Direction #3: leadership in sustainable infrastructure (focus on the improvement of the planning, design, construction and maintenance of public infrastructure)

All members, and perhaps particularly those engaged in leading the Society, are encouraged to actively participate in helping us to take action to make the strategic directions come to life. It is the sum of all of our efforts that will result in meaningful impact on the vitality of our Society; please do not underestimate the importance of your contributions to our work!

WORKSHOPS / CONFERENCES

CSCE presented the course CAN/CSA-S6-06 Design of Aluminum Bridges and Footbridges in four Quebec cities (Montreal, Quebec, Sherbrooke and Chicoutimi, the first time we offered a course in this city). We also organized a special in-house session for the Quebec Ministry of Transportation. A total of 92 engineers and students attended the events.

The course will be offered in Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton and Winnipeg on November 27-30, 2012. Please see details at <http://www.csce.ca/>.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...Did you know that 804 abstracts were received by the organizing committee for the 2013 Annual Conference to be held in Montreal?