

CIHT Dubai Group Newsletter

Welcome

Dear CIHT Dubai Members and Friends,

Welcome to this, our third issue of the CIHT Dubai Group Newsletter.



We are seeing a growing membership and community of interested highways and transport professionals in Dubai and the UAE. Our programme of online seminars, in particular, has covered a range of contemporary topics, from Electric Vehicles to Project Management and Women in Engineering. These have also enabled us to attract interest from a wider audience well beyond the UAE's borders. As we report in this newsletter, with our formal registration as a professional association in Dubai imminent, we are looking to see how we can this global reach can be maintained as we resume selected in-person events towards 2022.

Within this month's newsletter you will find details of the current Dubai Committee, information on online seminars, an update on membership and professional qualifications, and a profile of one of our members.

The Dubai Group exists to organise technical, membership and social events which share and develop knowledge, ideas and skills amongst highways and transport professionals in the UAE. We extend our thanks to all those who have helped us in this goal over the past few months through membership, service, or other voluntary contributions.

CIHT Dubai Group

The CIHT Dubai Group currently consists of 14 full Committee Members, all volunteers, who meet once a month to discuss the Group's ongoing progress, and to plan and organise future events. There around 120 full CIHT Members in the UAE and we now have a wider local and global registration of over 500 transport professionals. Additional support is always welcome so if you wish to get involved in the Committee, please get in touch.

Chair	Jonathan Spear	Young Professionals	Yara Al Hamdan
Vice Chair	Martin Tillman	Committee Member	Dr Stephen Wilkinson
Secretary	Prathyush Menon	Committee Member	Simon Cartwright
Events Coordinator	Nebras Al Radaideh	Committee Member	Jodie Mairs
Web and Data	Brindha Sankari	Committee Member	Sanaz Roigari
Membership & Development	Andrew Jenkins	Committee Member	Jarrod Smith
CIHT UK Liaison	Michelle Wood	Committee Member	Adel Armool

In forming the CIHT Dubai Group, we are keen to represent and raise the standards of the highways and transport planning and engineering profession locally. The main aims of the Group are as follows:

- To act as a forum for highways and transport professionals in Dubai and the UAE.
- To promote professional standards which enhance the capacity of Dubai's transport sector.
- To provide a local focus for CIHT to provide services and support to members.
- To become an active and self-sustaining branch of CIHT, contributing to the profile of the Institution.
- To promote wider professional, academic and social collaboration and learning with other bodies.

This newsletter is published twice a year by the Dubai Group of the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation (CIHT). To subscribe to our newsletter, receive notifications of upcoming seminars, give us feedback, or find out more about CIHT activities, membership and qualifications, contact us via:

General queries: ciht.dubaigroup@gmail.com

Branch website: Dubai | CIHT

Thoughts from the Chair – Laying Firm Foundations for the Future



Since its inception at the World Road Congress in late 2019, the CIHT Dubai Group has moved from strength to strength and had great success in connecting highways and transportation professionals in the UAE. It has done this in the face of challenges raised by COVID-19 and by remaining flexible, agile and pragmatic in getting things done.

But for any organisation to keep flourishing it must look to its next success. Therefore, we have focused on laying firm foundations for the future and in particular, strengthening our internal governance and seeking formal registration as a professional association. This is currently under way via the Dubai Association Centre (DAC), under the auspices of the Dubai Chamber of Commerce & Industry and is very near completion.

Registration will allow us to take the Dubai Group to the next stage of its development. This includes closer engagement with public agencies, greater capacity to support professional qualifications and skills development and looking to a wider range of events amongst our members and friends, especially as the pandemic comes to an end.

Past Events – January – June 2021

In the first half of 2021, CIHT Dubai Group has successfully organised five seminars on a wide range of topics.

Reflecting the ongoing pandemic, we continued to hold events via an online format. Seminars generally lasted 60 to 90 minutes and consisted of a brief introduction to CIHT and the Dubai Group, one or more presentations, followed by moderated Questions and Answers. The topics covered are set out below.

Bulletin Notes have been produced for each seminar and are available on request. If you have a suggest topic for a seminar, or wish to present, please get in touch with the Committee via ciht.dubaigroup@gmail.com.

Month	Seminar	Speakers and Organisations
January	<i>Electric Vehicles – Prospects, Challenges and Opportunities for the Roads Sector</i>	Ahmed Samir Elbermbali, MENA Clean Energy Business Council Gary West, General Motors Middle East Dominic Taylor and Andrew Jenkins, Arup
February	<i>Project Management for Real People – Principles and Practicalities in the Transport Sector</i>	Ayodeji Adepoju, Sands Civil Engineering Consultancy
March	<i>Connected and Autonomous Vehicles – Planning the Future of Road Transportation</i>	Jochen Lohmiller and Peter Sukennik, PTV Khalid Al Awadhi, Dubai Roads and Transport Authority Andrew Pearce, Atkins
May	<i>Road Crash Data for Engineers</i>	David George, Al Ain Municipality
June	<i>My Journey: Perspectives from Women in Engineering (IWED 2021)</i>	Jodie Mairs, Independent Consultant Nebras Radaideh, Parsons International Brindha Sankari Vasudevan, Arup Yara Al Hamdan, AECOM

Breaking News – Dubai to Introduce Autonomous Robotaxis



Cruise, the self-driving vehicle company majority-owned by General Motors, will launch its first international robotaxi service outside the US in Dubai in 2023, according to a new strategic partnership signed with the Dubai RTA in April.

The robotaxi will use the Cruise Origin, the all-electric shuttle-like vehicle unveiled in January 2020 that has no steering wheel or pedals and is designed to travel at highway speeds. Cruise will establish a new local Dubai-based company, which will be responsible for the deployment, operation and maintenance of the fleet.

The service will start with a limited number of vehicles, with plans to scale up to 4,000 by 2030. The robotaxis will be limited to specific areas before expanding to other parts of the city. Other modes are expected to adopt self-driving technology in due course.

In Case You Missed it – Recent Seminars on New Vehicle Technology

January 2021: Electric Vehicles – Prospects, Challenges & Opportunities for the Roads Sector



The World has begun a major transition in the way road vehicles are powered. Globally, cities are seeking to simultaneously maintain mobility, reduce their dependency on fossil fuels, improve air quality and reduce their carbon footprint in order to combat global warming. Governments are setting stringent emission limits and looking to achieve net zero carbon in road transport, driving great interest and investment in Electric Vehicles (EVs), alternative fuels and other automotive efficiency & energy reduction measures.

The seminar presented prospects and challenges for EVs, globally and in Dubai. The benefits and practicalities of EVs and associated infrastructure were discussed, as well as factors affecting EV take-up and how electrification supports other agendas such as Smart Dubai. The bigger picture of a low carbon transport future was also addressed, including the need for demand management and behavioural change measures to reduce emissions alongside technology solutions. The presenters were:

- **Ahmed Samir Elbermbali**, Managing Director, MENA Clean Energy Business Council.
- **Gary West**, Managing Director of Future Mobility, General Motors Africa and Middle East.
- **Dominic Taylor and Andrew Jenkins**, Directors, Arup

March 2021: Connected and Autonomous Vehicles – Planning the Future of Road Transportation



Road applications linked to Connected and Autonomous Vehicles (CAVs) are developing rapidly in many parts of the World. Conditional Automation, with examples such as assisted parking & expressway autopilot, could become available shortly, whilst fully driverless road vehicle operation may be feasible and proven from a safety perspective from the end of this decade. Some countries have defined roadmaps for driverless trip-making and the next few years are expected to see rapid advances not only in technology, but also the enabling environment in terms of policy, regulation, ethics and sustainable business models

In Dubai, the RTA has a target that 25% of all trips in the Emirate will be driverless by 2030 and is looking at definitive use cases and what changes to physical and digital infrastructure may be required. This will challenge and evolve existing conventions around road planning, design and engineering. This seminar considered the timelines, impacts, early applications and future prospects for CAVs through four contrasting presentations by professionals working in the field followed by questions and answers. The presenters were:

- **Jochen Lohmiller and Peter Sukennik**, Managers, PTV.
- **Khaled Al Awadhi**, Director, Dubai RTA.
- **Andrew Pearce**, Director, Atkins Intelligent Mobility.

CIHT Dubai on Track to Become a Registered Association



In the second half of 2021, CIHT Dubai will formalise its status as a registered professional association in Dubai. This is currently under way via the Dubai Association Centre (DAC), under the auspices of the Dubai Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

At the time of writing, we are engaged in final discussions and submission of required documentation for determining our registration, supported by CIHT Britannia Walk. We are working towards, and on track to complete, the process before the end of July.

Once the registration process is completed, CIHT Dubai group will have access to DAC collaborative spaces, located in One Central, adjacent to the World Trade Centre and Emirates Towers, including:

- A desk in a collaborative working office space with other associations;
- Reception with message taking services and collection and distribution of incoming mail; and
- Access to meeting rooms and facilities.

These benefits will allow CIHT members and other interested parties to reach us more easily by mail or phone. In addition, physical Committee meetings can be held at One Central, whilst we are also considering other venues for seminars and other events as we emerge from the pandemic.

These steps will further establish CIHT's presence in the UAE, support better local services for CIHT Members and allow us to move into the next stage of development as we overcome the pandemic.

Membership and Qualifications

Whether you are just starting your career in highways and transportation or are an experienced professional, CIHT can help to support your professional development by offering access to qualifications which recognise your knowledge and experience and improve your chances of career progression. These qualifications include Chartered Engineer (CEng), Transport Planning Professional (TPP) and Road Safety Auditing Certificate of Competency (CoC).

CIHT Dubai, through Michelle Wood and Andrew Jenkins, is focusing on raising awareness of professional training and qualifications in Dubai and the UAE, both amongst CIHT Members and others in the local highways and transportation sector. This includes mentoring a number of applicants through the TPP qualification

Two seminars are planned for later in the year; the first on becoming a CTPP and the second focusing on acquiring a professional qualification in engineering. Both events will provide an overview of what is required to gain a professional qualification and what preparation is necessary. We will explain the benefits of having professional qualifications, address the challenges people face and who can act as mentors. We will also explain how CIHT is working to make qualifications less UK-specific in terms of knowledge, experience and assessment criteria.

In the medium-term, the Dubai Group is working with CIHT in Britannia Walk to support applicants locally through the establishment of a panel of senior mentors in region. Engagement and feedback from individuals and employers who are interested in pursuing professional qualifications is being actively encouraged and the objective is to make access to professional qualifications as flexible and relevant as possible.

Michelle and Andrew would be delighted to hear from you if you are interested in pursuing a professional qualification and would like to discuss mentoring and support through the process. We would also be delighted to hear from senior professionals who are qualified and willing to act as mentors to others.

More information can be obtained through the CIHT website [Get Qualified \(ciht.org.uk\)](http://www.ciht.org.uk).



Transport Planning Professional Review and Revision



The Transport Planning Professional (TPP) qualification has been designed to provide professional recognition for transport planners in the same way that the Chartered Engineer accreditation recognises the highest level of engineering competence. It is awarded by CIHT and the Transport Planning Society (TPS). Revised TPP competence standards were launched in March 2021.

The TPP was launched in 2008 and conferred with Chartered status in 2019. Given the length of time which has passed and the changes in the transportation industry including new trends in travel behaviours, transport technologies and potentially significant changes in future mobility, a comprehensive 10-year review has been undertaken. The review, led by Professor Glenn Lyons, began with a series of workshops with TPP stakeholders in which the competencies expected of transport planners were critically examined. The review made recommendations regarding the types of revision to the TPP competencies, processes and paperwork that should be considered. For more information visit <https://www.ciht.org.uk/news/tpp-qualification-10-year-review/>

These recommendations have been utilised by the TPP Professional Standards Committee to consider and assess the TPP competencies and where appropriate update the competencies to be relevant for the current time (and to try to build in a degree of “future proofing”). They have also addressed the expectations for a Transport Planning Professional as well as making the qualification more accessible to transport planners based outside the UK.

A document explaining the rationale to the changes in the competency units and a list of the original and new versions can be found https://www.ciht.org.uk/media/14065/changes-following-tpp-review_march-2021.pdf.

Committee Member Profile – Dr. Stephen Wilkinson



1. What's your job title and who do you currently work for?

I am an Associate Professor of Civil Engineering and the Head of the Smart and Sustainable Cities Research Cluster at the University of Wollongong (UoWD) in Dubai.

2. Can you briefly summarise your career to date?

I studied for an undergraduate degree in Geological Sciences in the Royal School of Mines at Imperial College London. I then did an MSc and PhD in the Civil Engineering Department, looking at the microstructure and behaviour of UK mud rocks. Next, I worked as a Lecturer in China for Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, and as a Senior Lecturer at the University of Wolverhampton, before arriving in Dubai.

3. Why did you move to Dubai and what's the best thing about living here?

I moved to Dubai as I was invited to apply for a role at UoWD. Dubai is at the forefront of technology and development, and this makes it an ideal place for research. One of the nicest things about living here is the ability to interact with people from different cultures and backgrounds, share ideas and see different perspectives.

4. Tell us a bit about UoWD and its Smart and Sustainable Research Cluster

Established in Dubai in 1993, UoWD is the first international and Australian university in the UAE. It ranks among the top 1% of universities worldwide and offers more than 40 programs spanning 10 industry sectors, including engineering, business, ICT, healthcare, communications and media.

The Smart and Sustainable Cities Research Cluster combines skills from across the University to focus research on key areas:

- Sustainability, Renewable Energy and Zero Carbon;
- Digital Transformation;
- Smart Services and Cities;
- Smart Construction and Mechanical Technologies; and
- Advanced Digital and Additive Manufacturing, including 3D Printing.

5. How do you feel academic institutions like UoWD should engage with the public and private sectors in developing and implementing new policies and plans?

The role of a university is to serve its community. There is clear evidence that the presence of a university increases the economic outcomes of the host region. Academics are problem solvers, some of their work is fundamental, and this incrementally advances understanding of a subject. But most of an engineering academics work will be applied, and this will involve looking at how the world works and seeing if there are ways in which it could work better. Academics partner with industry to find new approaches and to bring into reality things that are imagined.

I have been in regular contact with companies looking for themes and ways where the Smart and Sustainable Cities Research Cluster can contribute. We want to collaborate with industry to ensure that the work that we do has a real impact.

6. What do you get out of being on the CIHT Dubai Group?

The CIHT Dubai Group provides an opportunity to meet with experts in the highways and transportation field and to get to know what they are working on and what their interests are.

The presentations from experts are fascinating as they outline the cutting edge of technology, process and people. I find when I listen to new things my imagination is most active. I am always thinking, what is the next step, how can we improve this, or can we link this with another technology?

7. In the transport system of the future, what does "good" look like and how do we get there?

Predicting the future is always a challenge, especially as the pace and complexity of change has increased.

Zero carbon transport systems are the easiest future prediction as the transition is already happening. Electric powertrains will come to dominate use of smaller vehicles, whilst hydrogen power will have a major role in larger vehicles, including aviation. The development of the charging and fuel supply infrastructure alongside vehicle technologies will move at a rapid pace. The UAE could well lead the world in the generation of green hydrogen from solar energy.

The next predictable change will be efforts for the reduction in non-biodegradable and non-recyclable materials and waste. This will also see the development of modularisation and recycling systems ideally alongside new materials. This creates a fundamental change in design as we rethink the materials that we use in the construction and operation of transport infrastructure and services.

The third prediction is that the design goals of some transport modes will begin to focus more on comfort and utility. With autonomy and driverless operation, the expectation will be that people will work or do other things while moving from place to place. This will mean that the value of time and transport speed will become less important in the future.

My final prediction is that UAE will become a centre for global innovation. A great deal of funding is targeted at start-up companies and many of these have been successful locally.

But for any organisation to keep flourishing it must look to its next success. We have seen this at the Smart and Sustainable Cities Research Cluster where we have partnered with start-ups to keep them at the cutting edge of technology. Again, this shows the key role of universities in supporting society.