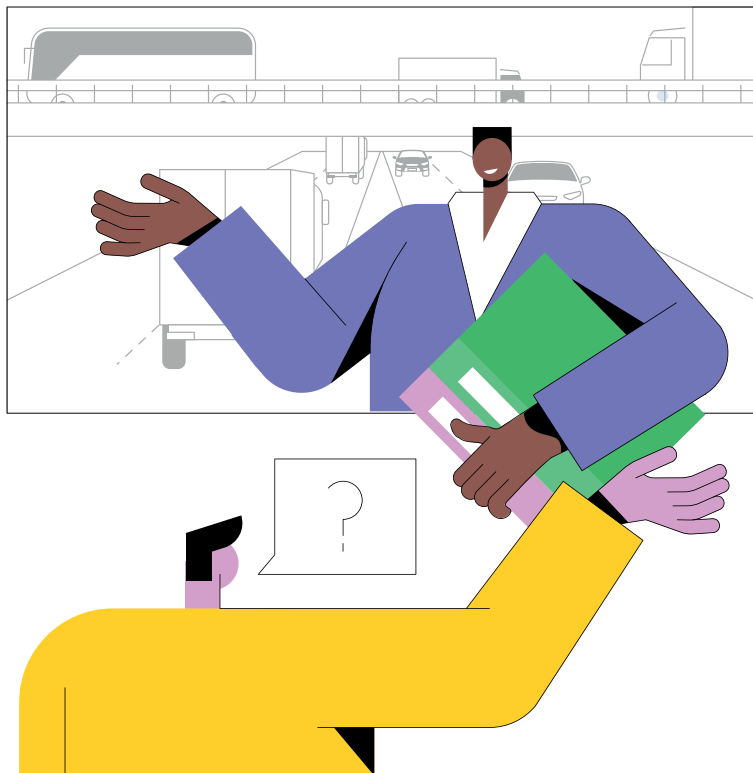




WHAT I'VE LEARNED

MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

WSP's **Damian Meehan** explains how volunteering can help solve some of transport's most pressing problems

+ VOLUNTEERING ENHANCES your CV and gives you a real element of kudos. When I became chartered through the CIHT, it ignited a desire to help other people become professionally qualified and since 2008 I've done over 200 professional reviews. This gives me a great deal of satisfaction in helping candidates continue on the path to something great.

My other volunteering roles include sitting on the Engineering Professional Standards Panel and the Individual Route Assessment Panel, which feeds into CIHT's Education and Professional Development Strategy Board.

I've also worked with the British Property Forum, as well as being part of the Joint Board of Moderators (JBM), a collection of engineering institutions that takes the Engineering Council's

standards and accredit degree courses, where I represent CIHT as an industry member.

As well as helping other people in their careers, volunteering gives you a warm, fuzzy feeling knowing that you're giving something back. There's a lot of reading and preparation required, but you get to ask questions and listen to the candidates, so we get as much as, if not more than the candidate from the process. It's some of the best continuing professional development you will ever get because it consolidates and widens your knowledge.

SOLUTIONS NOT PROBLEMS

The biggest challenge that the transport sector faces is the climate emergency. Transport contributes more carbon than any other sector so it's incumbent on us to get

"It's some of the best continuing professional development you will ever get because it consolidates and widens your knowledge"

serious about decarbonising our transport systems and how we run our economy.

Volunteering can help the sector here through diversity, with those who want to play an active part, getting a place at the table and being heard. We need everybody to be engaged, involved, energised, committed, dedicated and be part of the discussion.

We're not the best in terms of diversity as a profession, but we are taking significant steps towards achieving it. Having a diverse range of people who volunteer adds real value to the Institution, representing it in the way it wishes to be represented: a mirror of the community that we serve. And having different people with different backgrounds and views can challenge and improve the way the Institution operates.



Damian Meehan is technical director (UK logistics & industrial sector lead) for WSP

GET INVOLVED

Looking forward, I may move to more strategic roles within CIHT to help deliver its central aims and initiatives, perhaps joining the CIHT Council and ultimately the Board of Trustees.

The Institution has a series of local regions across the UK, which are good places to start if you are very early in your career, and there are plenty of opportunities for more senior professionals. And wherever you are in your career, you can inspire the next generation as a CIHT STEM ambassador. There's always room for people to get involved.

FIND OUT MORE
Discover the range of options for CIHT volunteering at bit.ly/CIHT-Volunteer

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