

CIHT Dubai Group Newsletter

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Welcome

Dear CIHT Dubai Members and Friends,



Welcome to the fourth issue of the CIHT Dubai Newsletter, published at the end of a year that has seen strong progress for UAE transportation and the formal establishment and launch of the Dubai Group as an accredited professional association.

This month marks the 50th anniversary of the UAE with celebrations of a half century of nation building, including in modern roads and infrastructure connecting the Emirates.

Dubai has also commenced the incredible festival of EXPO 2020, where CIHT has supported a number of events within a packed conference season which has included Hypermotion, the IRF World Meeting and Gulf Traffic.

Within this month's newsletter you will find information on the Dubai Group, information on evening seminars held in the second half of the year and a look ahead what's coming up in 2022. In addition, we have an update on membership and professional qualifications, a profile of one of our Committee Members and highlights of our official launch as a professional association by the UK Secretary of State for Transport, Grant Shapps MP, at EXPO 2020.

CIHT Dubai Group

The CIHT Dubai Group was established following the World Road Congress in Abu Dhabi in October 2019, and exists to organise technical, membership and social events which share and develop knowledge, ideas and skills amongst highways and transport professionals in Dubai and the UAE. 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.
- To lay the basis for further CIHT activity in the UAE and wider Region.

The Dubai Group is led by a Committee of 14 Members, all volunteers and professionals in the transport sector, who meet regularly to discuss the Group's ongoing progress, develop and monitor a business plan and programme, and to organise future events, professional mentoring and qualifications. There are around 120 signed-up CIHT Members in the UAE and we now have a local and global registration database of almost 1,100 transport professionals.

The Dubai Group has made substantial progress in the past two years, despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, and we extend our thanks to all those who have helped us in this goal through membership, service, or other voluntary contributions. Additional support and sponsorship for our activities is actively sought and always welcome, so if you wish to get involved in the Committee or support the Group in any capacity, please get in touch.

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 – Launching the Next Stage of Our Development



Jonathan Spear
Chair, CIHT Dubai

The second half of 2021 has seen a welcome return to face-to-face events in Dubai and the UAE. First and foremost amongst these has been EXPO 2020, offering the chance to experience the best of art, architecture, science, culture and more from 192 countries in one exceptional location, connected by the new Route 2020 Extension of the Dubai Metro.

I am particularly pleased that it was at the UK Pavilion at EXPO that CIHT Dubai was officially launched by the Secretary of State for Transport, Grant Shapps MP, on 22 November. This marks the completion of our formal accreditation as a professional association in the UAE under the auspices of the Dubai Association Centre. We thank the Department for Transport, UK Embassy, UK EXPO Team and DAC for helping to make this happen. It was a great celebration for the hard work of the Committee in recent months and came almost exactly two years from our initial meeting to establish the Group.

In October, we also submitted our first Dubai Group Business Plan for 2022 to Britannia Walk setting out the initiatives we have in mind for next year. Interesting times lie ahead!

Past Events – July – December 2021

In the second half of 2021, CIHT Dubai successfully organised five seminars online on a range of topics.

Over 800 people registered for these seminars, with Abu Dhabi's new approach to strategic transport modelling, and delivering a net zero transport system proving particular popular. Seminars lasted up to 90 minutes and consisted of a brief introduction to CIHT, one or more presentations, followed by moderated Questions and Answers. The full topics covered, speakers and their organisations, are set out below and we thank all speakers for their contributions.

Bulletin Notes have been produced for each seminar and are available on request. If you have a suggested 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
August	<i>Electric Vehicle Charging Optimisation</i>	Moshiuzzaman Mahmud – Wood Plc Laurence Chittock – PTV
September	<i>STEAM+ - Abu Dhabi's New Approach to Transport Modelling</i>	Stephen Bennett – Integrated Transport Centre Abdallah Abdelgader El-Shabani – Integrated Transport Centre
October	<i>Transport Planning in Paradise – Reflections on a Career in Fiji</i>	Jarrod Smith – Jacobs
November	<i>Delivering a Net Zero Transport System – Reflections on COP 26 (Joint Panel with CEBC)</i>	Ahmed Samir Elbermbali – Clean Energy Business Council Jonathan Foster-Clark – Atkins Nada Jasim – Roads and Transport Authority Ben Pritchard – Arup Stephen Wilkinson – University of Wollongong, Dubai Andrew Crudgington – CIHT
December	<i>Acquiring a Qualification in Transport Planning</i>	Michelle Wood – PTRC Andrew Jenkins – Arup Prathyush Mukkadekkat – Dar Al-Handasah

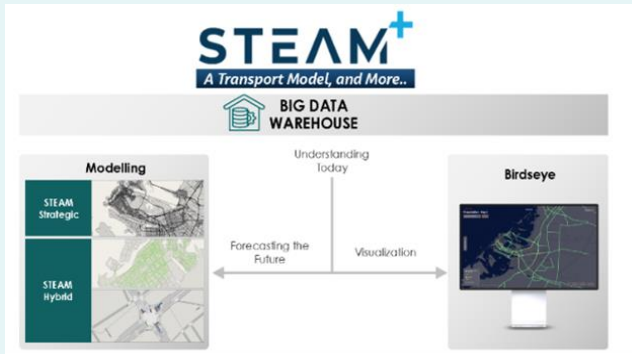
Through registration for CIHT Dubai seminars, we now have an extensive database of transport professionals in the UAE, GCC Region and Worldwide. Of the almost 1,100 contacts on record:

- Almost 450 (40%) are based in UAE, mainly Dubai, and 650 are based internationally, with other countries in the GCC, UK and India representing significant groupings, but also including USA, Singapore, and Australia;
- 17% are CIHT Members, and 19% are potentially interested in Membership; and
- 76% are male and 24% female.

As we look to resume face-to-face events in 2022, the challenge will be maintaining accessibility to our regional and international audience whilst focusing activities on the ground in Dubai, through various hybrid formats.

In Case You Missed it – Details of our Recent Seminars

September 2021: STEAM+ - Abu Dhabi's New Approach to Transport Modelling



The Abu Dhabi Integrated Transport Centre (ITC) is developing a ground-breaking Transport Modelling Framework called STEAM+. Adding to traditional four step modelling approaches, the new framework covers Meso, Micro Models and near Real-Time Simulation. The ITC is linking big datasets including day-to-day anonymized mobile phone tracking, water/electricity consumption by household, live tracking of bus and taxi fleets, building and plot level municipal data, as well as a comprehensive population and employment datasets. This is a hugely ambitious project and nothing of this scale has yet been undertaken by other transport authorities. The STEAM+ Framework will place Abu Dhabi's Transport Modelling Program among the best in the world.

The new STEAM+ Framework is multi-tiered, allowing assessment of schemes ranging from specific intersections to large infrastructure studies, transit corridors and policy tests, be it for a single CBD block or across the whole Emirate. It complements perfectly the current regional strategic model for more detailed, dynamic assessment of flow metering at junctions, traffic queuing, ITS and emerging technologies, bus priority and LRT at junctions, to mention but a few.

This seminar, led by the ITC's Stephen Bennett and Abdallah Abdelgader El-Shabani, introduced the development of the STEAM+ Framework, including its three pillars, the big data warehouse, the multi-tiered model, and the visualisation tool. The seminar also discussed some of the interesting applications that the ITC has been developing through the Framework and took a wide range of technical and practical questions from the audience.

October 2021: Transport Planning in Paradise



Situated in the Pacific Ocean, the island country of Fiji is approximately 26 hours by plane from the Middle East. In total Fiji incorporates 333 islands and is an idyllic paradise destination for any traveller. But is "Transport Planning in Paradise" a job which requires a hammock, snorkel and beach towel? Not a chance!

A tropical climate with frequent cyclones, a local drink which numbs the body, sugar cane season and significant foreign investment make for an exciting, turbulent and demanding role which is a fulfilling once in a lifetime experience.

The road network within Fiji connects to many settlements and is of paramount importance to transport people to work and goods around the country, the condition of the roads is the first item on the news everyday. In addition to roads, bridges need to be constructed and maintained which is a difficult task with intensive use, limited resources and extreme weather.

Roads are also the main mode of transportation for the Fiji's most important export, sugar cane, with crop season lasting for 4 months and vital to the economy and local population for employment; hence providing a network for transportation that is reliable, safe and is enforced is vital. However, constructing and maintaining airstrips for domestic aviation and jetties for ferries between islands are also important.

The seminar, led by Jarrod Smith of Jacobs, discussed the issues and challenges faced within transport planning on a daily basis within Fiji, the factors which exacerbate these concerns, trial improvements that have already been tested, making stakeholders understand the importance of a reliable transport network and long term solutions which are being put into place. Questions considered the job prospects and career advice for anyone wishing to follow in Jarrod's footsteps.

November 2021: Delivering a Net Zero Transport System – Reflections on COP 26



Action in the coming decade to 2030 will be critical to ensuring that the World is still able to limit the extent of climate change. Many countries have made commitments to reducing their greenhouse gas emissions in order to meet the 2015 Paris Agreement objective of limiting global average temperature rise to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels by 2050.

Rapid and decisive action is needed to avoid the worst of the potential ecological, social and economic consequences which have begun to become apparent around the World. The transport sector has a central role in the decarbonisation challenge. To date, the adoption of Electric Vehicles is only just commencing and progress in decarbonising vehicle operation has generally been offset by growth in travel demand and average vehicle size. The aviation and maritime sectors have also not yet begun to take decisive action. This limited progress to date, and the scale of the transport challenge, requires urgent action.

The CIHT Dubai Group collaborated with the Clean Energy Business Council (CEBC) in holding this interactive Seminar following the conclusion of COP26 in Glasgow to consider the challenges of climate change, discuss interventions which will really make a difference and to consider appropriate transport policies and actions for Dubai, UAE and other further afield. Dubai RTA described current initiatives whilst experts from Atkins, Arup, UoWD and CIHT considered technological change, travel demand management, modal shift to sustainable modes and the need for transport professionals to raise their carbon literacy, develop new skills and competencies in the context of UAE hosting COP28 in 2023.

CIHT at Hypermotion Dubai

The second half of 2021 has seen a welcome return of face-to-face professional conferences and exhibitions in Dubai including GITEX, World Meeting of the International Road Federation and Gulf Traffic. CIHT Dubai has been present at all of these, presenting concepts, moderating debates and contributing to the discussion.

CIHT is especially pleased to support Hypermotion Dubai, exploring innovative concepts transforming logistics, freight and mobility in the Middle East and Africa. The event, between 2nd and 4th November at Dubai Exhibition Centre at EXPO 2020, provided a showcase of new thinking in transport, hosted for the first-time outside Europe, and attended by leading mobility brands, technology developers, start-ups and a range of government entities.

Messe Frankfurt, organisers of Hypermotion, provided an overview of the event at the CIHT Dubai Seminar on Electric Vehicle Charging Optimisation in August. During Hypermotion itself CIHT Chair, Jonathan Spear, moderated a discussion panel on What Will Our Roads Look Like in 2050? CIHT Vice-Chair, Martin Tillman, led a forum on The Future of Mass Transit Post-COVID. Both were engaging and wide-ranging exchanges of ideas and viewpoints.

Hypermotion will return to Dubai, hosted at the World Trade Centre, in September 2022.



Professional Development, Training and Mentoring



Since the inception of CIHT Dubai Group, Michelle Wood and Andrew Jenkins, have focused on raising awareness of professional training and qualifications in Dubai and the UAE, both amongst CIHT Members and others in the local highways and transport sector. Seminars have been run, including most recently in December 2021, focusing on acquiring a professional qualification in transport planning (Transport Planning Professional, TPP) and also on acquiring an equivalent qualification in engineering (Chartered Engineer, Incorporated Engineer or Engineering Technician).

The Dubai Group is working with CIHT Britannia Walk to support applicants locally through the development of a group of 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 easy, flexible and relevant as possible. An example is ongoing work to allow interview presentations via virtual media rather than face to face meetings, removing the need to travel.

Jarrod Smith a CIHT Dubai Committee member is currently progressing with the Transport Planning Professional qualification via the Portfolio of Evidence (PoE) Route:

"I have always considered working towards the TPP qualification however I was unsure of the route to take and thought that I wouldn't have the spare time to dedicate to the requirements. Michelle has made the process easy by having several Zoom calls to explain the various routes and we have agreed of the best way forward. The short reports required for the PoE route are basically just writing down what you do in your day to day job, so it's relatively straight forward and something I would recommend to anyone that is interested becoming qualified."

More information can be obtained through www.ciht.org.uk. Michelle and Andrew would be delighted to hear from you if you are interested in pursuing a professional qualification and would like to discuss 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.

Committee Member Profile – Jodie Mairs



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

I am currently working as a Road Safety Specialist with over 20 years' experience working in the UK and throughout the GCC. I am a well-rounded transport planner with experience in Traffic Impact Studies, vulnerable road user schemes, safer routes to schools and various policy and planning projects.

Since starting a family, I have been freelancing, working for a variety of companies based in the UAE with projects located mostly in Abu Dhabi and Saudi Arabia.

2. Can you briefly summarise your career to date?

I started my career working in Manchester in the UK for a company called Babtie. I completed my graduate training programme and started my career working on Route Management Strategies for the Highways Agency (now Highways England), undertaking public consultation and developing work programmes to improve traffic conditions along a number of strategic roads.

During my time at Babtie I also worked on local safety schemes where my interest in road safety started.

After five years working with Babtie and Jacobs, I moved to Faber Maunsell in the UK. During this time, I was seconded into Manchester City Council where I managed the Collision Investigation Unit for two years, responsible for monitoring of road traffic collisions, reporting of national targets, developing future programmes to improve road safety. I also undertook road safety audits on all new road schemes for Manchester.

In 2011 an opportunity for road safety auditors in AECOM presented itself and I relocated to Doha to work on the Contract 6 Road Safety Services Project for Ashghal, the strategic and local roads authority in Qatar. This project was expected to be a six month secondment. However, at the end of the project I decided to stay with AECOM in Qatar, relocating permanently.

In Qatar, I worked on a number of projects including Qatar Economic Zone, Public Realm Guidelines and Contract 2 Local Roads and Drainage. In 2015, I relocated to Abu Dhabi with AECOM where I continued to work on road safety and transport planning schemes before joining KEO in 2016.

During my time at KEO I worked on various projects based in Qatar, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Oman and Kuwait.

In 2019 I took the decision to leave KEO and become a freelance road safety auditor and transport planner.

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

I moved to Dubai in 2017 with my husband. As a transport planner and road safety specialist, driving here is quite an eye opener to the crazy decisions motorists make!

I love the cosmopolitan lifestyle of Dubai and the fact that it truly is a 24 hour city. As a mum of three, I also love the safe community and environment to bring up a young family and the fact that when winter is finally with us, we can go to the beach whilst the UK is wrapped up in jumpers and coats.

4. What do you get out of being involved in the CIHT Dubai Group?

I was a founding member of the CIHT Group in November 2019. I enjoy being a part of such as ground-breaking branch of the CIHT.

I have made some excellent professional contacts and friends through the Group, and I particularly like the frequency and varied content of the evening seminars.

5. What measures from transport agencies in the region could improve road safety further?

Ensuring good quality road safety audits are being produced by suitably qualified road safety auditors is a key challenge. Often a road safety audit is viewed as a tick box exercise to achieve a design approval by an authority, when in reality it can really influence a design, decide what is built and actually save lives.

Ensuring all schemes are subject to a Stage 0 Concept Audit can help to eliminate flaws at the early stage in the design process and can ultimately save money going forward. It can influence the scheme upfront rather than having to retro fit safety measures later in the design.

The Stage 3 Audit, which covers post-construction evaluation before opening, is also a vital component in project completion. It should be undertaken on all new projects which have an interface with the highway and the general public. Ensuring all stages of audit are undertaken would help to improve road safety further.

Congratulations!



Congratulations to Committee Member Yara Al Hamdan, Transport Planner at AECOM, for being shortlisted by CIHT for the 2021 Young Transport Professional of the Year which celebrates future leaders and rising stars in Highways and Transportation. Whilst just pipped at the post for the top award, the nomination reflects Yara's amazing contribution to the Dubai Group, including leading our registration with DAC, and supporting our Women in Transport and Young Professional initiatives.

Official CIHT Dubai Launch at EXPO by UK Secretary of State for Transport



The CIHT Dubai Group was officially launched on 22nd November at a ceremony overseen by Grant Shapps MP, UK Secretary of State for Transport, at the UK Pavilion at EXPO 2020.

The launch marks the Dubai Group's formal registration as a professional association through the Dubai Association Centre (DAC) under the auspices of the Dubai Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Dubai World Trade Centre. DAC is the main licensing authority for professional associations in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with more than 50 local and international associations (including ICE, UITP and RTPi) currently registered.

The Secretary of State officially welcomed the registration, introducing Jonathan Spear, FCIHT, Chair of CIHT Dubai to outline the group's objectives and its achievements to date. Martin Tillman, MCIHT and Vice-Chair of CIHT Dubai, outlined plans for the future and the official registration certificate was presented by Mr. Mahir Abdulkarim Julfar, DAC Executive Committee and Executive Vice President of the Dubai World Trade Centre. Several members of the CIHT Dubai Committee and UK Embassy were also in attendance.

Formal registration gives CIHT Dubai access to collaborative working spaces in One Central, adjacent to Emirates Towers. It also allows members and other parties to physically access CIHT services and will allow CIHT to formally collaborate with local entities, such as the Dubai Roads and Transport Authority and Abu Dhabi Integrated Transport Centre. These benefits will support better local provision for CIHT members and further establish CIHT's presence in the UAE and the wider region.

The launch ceremony came at the end of the Future Travel Summit at the UK Pavilion at EXPO which saw a keynote policy address from the Secretary of State and themed roundtable discussions on future transport technologies and innovation, and how the UK is driving world-beating initiatives on integrated, sustainable and inclusive transportation and mobility. CIHT Dubai Chair, Jonathan Spear, moderated a panel on future power sources & fuels for transportation in the context of net zero.



Coming in 2022

As the CIHT Dubai Group heads into 2022, we are already making our plans for the coming year, in line with our new Business Plan which was recently approved by Britannia Walk. In particular, with new vaccines and treatments, we hope COVID-19 will gradually fade away and we will see a continuation of the return to normality across larger parts of the World in the first half of the year. In particular, we will look to resume holding physical events at venues across Dubai, potentially in a hybrid format for online members. However, we will also need to consider the longer-term legacy of the pandemic and how these will impact demand for travel, planning principles, technologies and practices,

In 2022, look out for:

- More evening seminars, online and some moving to a hybrid format, on a range of topics and themes;
- Organisation of our first site visits and social events;
- Continuing to support and develop mentoring and support for Transport Planning and Engineering Qualifications;
- New social media resources, such as a planned LinkedIn account;
- Closer engagement with academia, including lectures and chapters in local Dubai universities; and
- More transport conferences, including the UITP MENA Congress, Future World Energy Summit and Hypermotion Dubai.

We are always looking for volunteers, support and sponsorship to enhance the work of the CIHT Dubai Group. If interested, or to find out more about CIHT activities, membership and qualifications, contact us via:

General queries: ciht.dubaigroup@gmail.com

Branch website: [Dubai | CIHT](#)