

CIHT Dubai Group Newsletter

Welcome

Dear CIHT Dubai Members,

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



The first half of 2022 has seen the World slowly emerge from the shadow of the Pandemic. In June, we are therefore pleased to have held our first hybrid event, a seminar on Road Design in Hot Climates, hosted physically at the University of Wollongong in Dubai (UoWD) whilst also streaming live to an online global audience. Whilst there were some inevitable early learning points, the evening was a great success, and we hope the experience will inform further face-to-face events later in the year and into 2023. We are already planning our future programme.

In May, we also held our first formal Annual General Meeting (AGM), reviewed our substantial progress over the past two years and re-elected a strong Committee to take us forward to future ambitions and priorities.

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 16 full Committee Members, pictured below, who meet regularly to discuss progress, and to plan and organise future events. There are over 100 full CIHT Members in the UAE and we now have a local and global contacts database of over 1,700 transport professionals.



Jonathan Spear
(Chair)



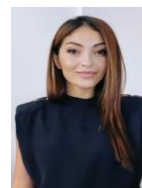
Martin Tillman
(Vice-Chair)



Prathyush Menon
(Secretary)



Jarrod Smith
(Treasurer)



Nebras Radaideh
(Events)



Andrew Jenkins
(Membership)



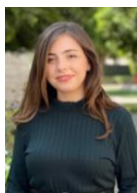
Brindha Sankari
(Web and Data)



Michelle Wood
(Professional Development)



Smriti Ojah
(Young Professionals)



Yara Al Hamdan



Majed Kaddoura



Dr. Khalid Nur



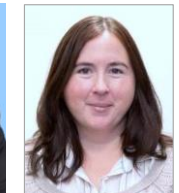
Dr. Stephen Wilkinson



Sanaz Roigari



Adel Armoal



Jodie Mairs

Additional support is always welcome so if you wish to get involved in the Committee, 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:

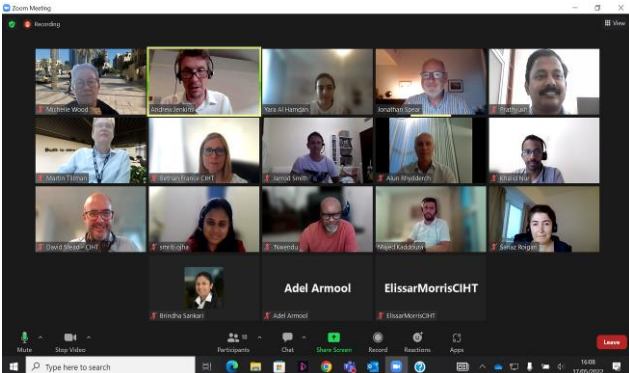
General queries: ciht.dubaigroup@gmail.com

Branch website: Dubai | CIHT

Annual General Meeting: Committee Re-election and Progress Review

At our first formal Annual General Meeting held online on 17th May 2022, we reviewed our progress over the past two years and re-elected the Committee in existing and some new roles. The AGM was also attended virtually by Sue Percy, CIHT Chief Executive, as well as colleagues from CIHT Britannia Walk in London.

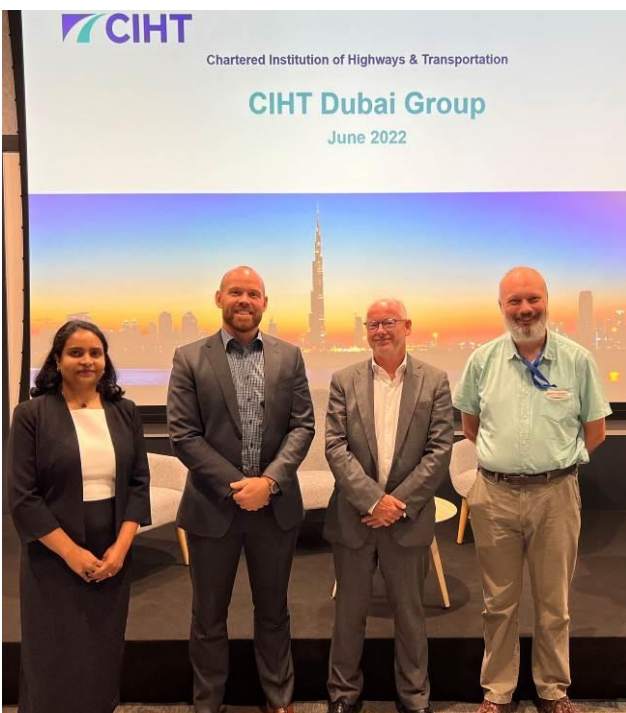
Jonathan Spear and Martin Tilman were re-elected as Chair and Vice-Chair. Jarrod Smith was elected as Treasurer in a new role which is essential for our financial governance. Smriti Ojah was appointed as Young Professional Chair.



Achievements

In his Chair's Review, Jonathan Spear noted a wide range of achievements since the Group was first established at the beginning of 2020:

- We have established CIHT Dubai as an effective entity and brand within the UAE;
- Resilience of activities during COVID-19;
- A strong and now established programme of technical seminars on a wide range of topics;
- Formal recognition and licensing as a professional association via Dubai Chamber and DAC;
- Support for professional training, mentoring and qualifications;
- Communications and publicity via CIHT Website, LinkedIn, newsletter and wider social media;
- Growing relationships with CILT UAE, CEBC, RTA, AD ITC and other regional groups/events;
- A contacts database of over 1,700 regional and global contacts;
- A successful launch by the UK Secretary of State for Transport at EXPO 2020 in November 2021; and
- Support for diversity through a selection of speakers, tracking of event attendees and IWED 21.



Jonathan also noted a range of future challenges to be tackled to move the Dubai Group on, including financial governance, sponsorship, returning to face-to-face events and succession planning for the Committee. He also announced several new initiatives for the year ahead.

Martin Tillman, in his Vice-Chair's Review, recapped on the Dubai Group's 2022 Business Plan and progress to date in delivering each of the eighteen action areas contained within it.

Andrew Jenkins and Michelle Wood reviewed CIHT Dubai activity supporting professional mentoring and qualifications in the GCC, as well as looking forward to implementing recently announced changes to the TPP qualification and support for engineering accreditation.

Much has been achieved and there is much still to come!

Events January – June 2022

To date in 2022, five seminars have been successfully organised, including our first face-to-face event since February 2020, physically at the University of Wollongong in Dubai (UoWD) in a hybrid format held simultaneously online. 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 and speakers are as follows:

Month	Seminar	Speakers and Organisations
January	Last Mile Mobility – Concepts and Applications	Khalid Nur - Future Mobility Lead for Mott MacDonald
February	Road Safety Barriers – Principles of Design and Installation	David George - Road Safety Specialist for Al Ain Municipality
March	Inclusion in Public Transport Interchange	Jon Harris – International Strategy and Business Development Lead of Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport
May	Professional Qualifications in Engineering	Michelle Wood – PTRC and CIHT
June	Urban Road Design in Hot Climates	Dr Stephen Wilkinson – Associate Professor, Engineering and Information Sciences UoWD
		Alan Wildes – CIO, FortyGuard, UAE
		Deepthi Mary Dilip – Assistant Professor, Birla Institute of Technology & Science, UAE.
		Maria Koetter – Executive Director, Global Cool Cities Alliance, USA

A full programme of technical seminars is planned for the second half of the year, either online or in a hybrid format. Come along, brush up on some topical subjects and network with like-minded people.

In case you missed it.....

February 2022: Road Safety Barriers – Principles of Design and Installation



This seminar discussed the typical types of road restraint system used in the UAE and GCC, the pros and cons of each and installation issues arising.

The meaning of the term 'Clear Zone' was outlined, together with the factors to consider when selecting the type of barrier to be installed such as working width, likelihood of impact, containment, radius and consequence of breach. The different types of barriers and terminals presented included:

- P4 Style Terminal;
- Crash Cushion Barrier Terminals; and
- WRSF Ramped End Terminals.

The installation and maintenance issues of road safety barriers include turning radius, misalignment, foundation design and snapping of rails. These need experience & professional judgement to get right.

This proved to be one of the most popular seminars ever organised by CIHT Dubai with over 200 attendees online, adding to a strong track record in road safety events.

June 2022: Urban Road Design in Hot Climates



The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has identified the significance of cities in understanding the impact of climate change, adapting to and mitigating the effects of higher global temperatures.

Over 400 cities across the world are impacted by extreme temperatures. Roads and other transport surfaces absorb and retain more solar energy, exacerbating the urban heat island effect. The 3 presenters at this hybrid event, hosted at UoWD, addressed the following topics:

- The quantitative monitoring of the extent of the problem through the use of data and urban analytics;
- What design approaches can be used to improve the performance of road infrastructure, particularly focusing on the material properties of roads; and
- The design and materials which may be used to reduce temperatures of hot cities in respect of transport surfaces and so mitigate effects of warming.

This was an interesting and lively discussion, a successful re-introduction of physical CIHT Dubai events, continuing a track record of events on net zero and climate change.

Membership and Qualifications

The latest CIHT Membership figures for the UAE are shown below. CIHT Dubai is working hard to grow overall local and regional interest and applications for CIHT Membership, including a more equal gender balance and encouraging diversity across ages, membership levels, citizens and residents, skillsets and between academic and private sectors.

	Fellow	Member	Associate	Graduate	Student	Total
2021-2022	17	69	1	2	13	102
Male	16	63	0	0	10	92
Female	1	3	1	2	3	10

Whether you are just starting your career in highways and transportation or are an experienced professional, CIHT can help to support your professional development needs by offering access to professional qualifications which recognise your knowledge and practical experience and improve your chances of progression in your chosen career. CIHT Dubai exists to help existing Members with CIHT services and encourage more Members to join.

Why Become Professionally Qualified	What Can CIHT Offer?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ National and international recognition as a professional ✓ Greater influence within your organisation and industry ✓ Assists career progression ✓ Recognition of your knowledge and expertise by colleagues and clients ✓ Evidence of your commitment to professional standards 	<p>Routes to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Chartered Engineer (CEng) ✓ Incorporated Engineer (IEng) ✓ Engineering Technician (EngTech) ✓ Transport Planning Professional (TPP) ✓ Road Safety Auditing Certificate of Competency (CoC) <p>Continuing Professional Development (CPD)</p>

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. Generally two seminars per year are run focusing on acquiring a professional qualification in transport planning (Transport Planning Professional, TPP) and also on acquiring a professional qualification in engineering (Chartered Engineer or Engineering Technician).

The Dubai Group supports applicants through a set of local mentors in the region who are professionally qualified. 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 qualifications as flexible and relevant as possible. An example is professional interviews being carried out via virtual media meetings, removing the need to travel.

Current mentors are Jonathan Spear, Michelle Wood, Andrew Jenkins, Fergal Hand, Sreeram Kollipara and Herve Etave. We currently have five candidates going for their professional qualifications via the various routes.

More information can be obtained through the CIHT website (<https://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 mentoring and support through the process. We would also be delighted to hear from senior professionals who are appropriately qualified and willing to act as mentors to others.

Committee Member Profile – Khaled Nur



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

I am currently working for Mott MacDonald as Future Mobility Lead for the Middle East and based in Dubai. My role involves embedding intelligent and future mobility into transport and master planning projects, and leading the Mott MacDonald FUTURES offering, a toolkit that enables the development of future-resilient strategies and planning for uncertainty.

2. Can you briefly summarise your career to date?

After obtaining a degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering at the University of Khartoum (Sudan), I moved to the UK where I obtained a master's degree in Communications and Signal Processing from Newcastle university, then a PhD in Positioning and Navigation systems from Imperial College London.

Following completion of my PhD I continued my career at Imperial College working as a Post-doctoral Research Associate at the Centre for Transport Studies (CTS). My time at CTS was split between Research and Development, and Consultancy.

After 9 years at Imperial, I decided to move to Industry and joined Arup in London as a Senior Intelligent Mobility Engineer where I worked on a range of projects including delivering data analytics projects, building business cases and business models for transport data platforms, and developing intelligent mobility and technology strategies.

I then joined the Connected Places Catapult (CPC), the UK innovation agency for Smart Cities and Intelligent Mobility; a not-for-profit organisation partially funded by the UK Government. During my time at CPC, I have led diverse projects including the

development of Intelligent Mobility strategies, Mobility as a Service roadmaps, Health and Wellbeing technology strategies for a major vehicle manufacturer, Smart Ports vision and roadmap for the UK, and the development of 5G mobility applications and use cases.

In September 2021 I moved to Dubai to join Mott MacDonald as Future Mobility Lead.

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

Moving to the Middle East has been in my mind for a while as I am fascinated by the pace of development in the region especially in the transport and technology space. In terms of living in Dubai, I am still at the discovery phase, so the best is yet to come. I enjoy the diversity, the variety of options in every aspect, and the high level of safety and security the city brings.

4. What do you get out of being on CIHT Dubai?

Being relatively new to the city and the region, I consider myself very fortunate to have joined the CIHT Dubai Group within my first few weeks in Dubai. I had the opportunity to meet and connect with like-minded professionals and quickly learn about the industry in the region. I thoroughly enjoy the CIHT seminars and find them immensely helpful and informative.

5. In terms of implementation and forward thinking of future technologies how is the UAE comparing with other countries across the world?

I believe the UAE is one of the leading countries in the application of future technologies in the Mobility and Smart City sectors. The country offers a great platform for the testing and application of new concepts and technologies. District 2020 is a great example of building such an innovation ecosystem and platform.

6. What can be done in the UAE to make data more accessible and relevant to assist with the development of new transport and mobility?

Providing access to complete, accurate, and timely data is a resource-intensive activity. In my personal view, one of the key enablers to support accessibility is building the business case which requires good, and ideally quantified, understanding of the challenges facing the transport sector. It is also important to note opportunities data can bring in addressing such challenges and improving efficiencies at the planning, design, development, and operational phases of the transport system.