Dear Members,

We operate within the Institution’s following strategic objectives to:

a) Diversify and grow professional membership in UK and internationally
b) Increase member engagement and value to members and their employers
c) Provide expert leadership to Government, Industry, Members and the informed public on Engineering
d) Develop awareness of engineering and profile of the IMechE
e) Inspire young people about engineering
f) Secure long-term financial position

The first objective is a significant challenge in Canada due mainly to ageing demographics of existing members and fewer immigrant additions to the pool. However, the main value proposition, in particular for a young engineer, should be the comparative international attractiveness of chartered membership.

There is a global movement of professionals not only in virtual space, but also of those who must relocate physically. There is a growing demand for engineers with the right skills internationally. Chartered Membership is likely to offer better recognition compared with provincial registration, such as P. Eng., in many parts of high demand areas of the World with deficits in availability of well-qualified professionals locally.

It would be pertinent to quote Lynda Gratton, Professor of Management Practice and director of the Future of Work Consortium, whose last book - about the future of work - was ‘The Shift’:

“The implications of the globalisation of education and job market is the rise of what we might call “transnationals”. In the past this is a word to describe corporations - now it’s a word to describe people. The people with these transnational capabilities predominately came from the developed West. Now, they are emerging from many countries around the world, amid clear signals that this re-balancing will continue. Expect to see a whole cohort of leaders emerging from India in the coming decade, and from China in the following decade as these countries’ diaspora create ever stronger corridors between markets.”

Since our last Counter-Torque in March, I would like to mention the following notable events:

The Formula North Competition was held in Barrie, Ontario in late May.

It was a great opportunity for us to engage with a large number of students in one go. The IMechE logo was prominently displayed alongside the likes of Magna on the event promotional material and the website. We had a booth diligently
managed by Phil Apperly distributing IMechE brochures to Young Engineers with a view to spreading awareness of what we are all about. Phil Apperly and Tony Hamilton were amongst the judges at the Oral Presentation portion of the competition.

It is an Engineering Student Design competition headed by SAE which requires teams to design, build and race a car from scratch. Ten other competitions take place around the world, but this is the first for Canada. Twenty Universities participated, a majority of them Canadian, others from the US and even Europe. Formula North follows the same events as the original Formula Student series. Students are required to build a new open-cockpit single-seat F-1 style race car, which is judged by a panel of experts belonging mostly to the automotive and motor sports industries. Scores are given on the basis of engineering design, overall cost, marketability and performance on the race track.

April 24th Speaker : Dr. Christian Sallaberger, Vice President of MDA : Canadian Space Robotics and Technology transfer

MDA is the acknowledged world leader in space robotics. Dr. Sallaberger gave both an overview of the past, present and future space robotic work at MDA, as well as a look at how technology transfer to and from terrestrial markets is keeping this industry vibrant. The recognized symbol of Canadian space robotic heritage is the famous ‘Canadarm’ which was used for 3 decades on the Space Shuttle. This expertise led to the current advanced MDA robots assembling and maintaining the International Space Station. MDA has also recently sent a robotic weather station to Mars, which has made some startling discoveries.

September 25th Speaker: Bob Gunn: Inspecting & Maintaining the CANDU Reactor

Our Speaker who is a highly skilled professional in this field, made a forceful presentation on the subject. CANDU reactor was named one of the top ten Canadian engineering achievements. For almost 50 years, and long before the popular “Green Movement” took hold, CANDU reactors have quietly produced safe clean electricity in Canada and abroad.

On a personal note, very soon, on completing two years as Chairman, this role will pass on to Tony Hamilton. I have been privileged to work with a team of such talented individuals, whose valuable support provided the motivation and energy to move forward. Tony Hamilton was the driving force for our very successful programmes; Phil Apperly, one can count on for solid contribution way beyond his titled role; Andrew Smith is a proven asset; VC Mathur, even though time constrained was always there to offer very sound advice; Tim Ponniah despite his business workload, quietly works in the background when required; Des Piggott for his continued valuable support and Fred Stock in Manitoba. Mohan Rao and John White, recent additions, further strengthen our team. Thank you all.

Our Speaker at the November 23 festive dinner is Dr. Vivek Rao, flyer is enclosed.

The Mechanical Heart: Clinical Reality or Science-Fiction?

We look forward to seeing you at our annual festive dinner.

Best regards

Ravi Vijh, Chairman CCB