



President's Monthly Notes
March 2024

At the end of February, I was invited to attend a meeting on 'The Future of Battery Tech: Developing a Sustainable Battery Industry' which was hosted by the Parliamentary & Scientific Committee at Westminster. Over forty guests attended from across the engineering and scientific communities, together with several parliamentarians from both the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

We were told how the world is transitioning to electric vehicles which will require a massive increase in battery production. This will present both opportunities and challenges to the UK. The opportunities include the potential to increase our strong intellectual position, here in the UK; whilst the challenges include access to the raw materials and investment in both manufacturing and people.

This last challenge is perhaps the most significant for the engineering profession, were there was a general agreement in that a lack of qualified engineers across the engineering disciplines, including civil, could be a significant hindrance.

The American Society of Civil Engineers, as you would expect, provides opportunities to support you in your journey as a civil engineer. This leads me onto a recent poll/questionnaire that was conducted amongst our members enquiring if they would like a series of guest lectures to be held on a regular basis. These lectures would feature engineers and individuals who are eminent in their chosen field.

Most of the replies to the questionnaire preferred an afternoon time slot of around 4.00pm. In addition, some of the replies suggested that a lecture be held quarterly. Finally, many of the replies asked if attendance at the lecture would qualify for CPD.

The intention is to trial a lecture sometime in the next few months. To qualify for CPD and to obtain an appropriate attendance certificate, members would need to register beforehand. Hopefully the lectures will prove to be a valuable source of knowledge and inspiration.

I'll post more details in my Notes for April.

Kind Regards

Ian
ASCE UK Group President.