

# Executive Committee Meeting – 16 Nov 09



## Summary of Principal Issues Discussed

### DEPUTY EXECUTIVE CHAIR

Following the recent resignation, for personal reasons, of the incumbent holder, a search has begun to identify a suitable candidate for the important position of Executive Deputy Chair.

The ideal candidate shall have excellent leadership and visionary skills, have a good image within the industry together a broad selection of contacts and have the enthusiasm to help to drive the RTSA forward to the achievement of the ambitious goals that it has set itself over the next few years. The Deputy Chair will assume the position of Executive Chair in September 2010.

### STRATEGIC PLAN

At the meeting, the Executive endorsed the recently-drafted RTSA Strategic Plan which will form the framework for the activities of the Technical Society up to 2013. The document defines the actions that shall be adopted by the Executive Committee to support and pursue the Objectives and Activities as promulgated in The Constitution. Provision is made in the Plan for regular reviews of its contents to be made by the members of the Executive so that any identified corrective action can be taken. A copy of the Plan can be found elsewhere in the RTSA website.

### PROJECT/ PLANNING MANAGER

It is recognized by the Executive that its program of initiatives is significant and that volunteer time constraints are inhibiting the desired progress of many of the identified items. This being the case, it has been concluded that employment of a Project / Planning Manager on a part-time basis is required to provide support to the Chair and the other members of the Executive in the pursuit of identified major objectives. The search for a suitable candidate to fulfill this role will begin soon.

### RTSA WEBSITE

The Executive acknowledges the fact that the RTSA website is in need of improvement and it has been accepted that whole sale redesign is required. To this end, a sum of money has been set aside to employ professional assistance to undertake this important task. A working group Chaired by John Goodall has been established to pursue this enterprise to its conclusion.

### CORE2010

A report was received from the Chairman of the CORE2010 Organising Committee, John Gardiner, and the Executive was satisfied that preparations for this important event are well in hand.

### CORE2012 AND BEYOND

Agreement was reached that a longer planning horizon is required for CORE Conferences and, with this objective in mind, the following tentative program has been established:

- CORE2012 Brisbane
- CORE2014 Sydney
- CORE2016 Adelaide

Furthermore, it has been recognized that, as a result of the growth in the size and scope of the conferences, local organizing committees require additional support from the Executive. Accordingly, it has been proposed that the Chairs of the three preceding organizing committees shall become members of the committee that will be arranging the next conference in the cycle.

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Awards Sub-Committee continued...



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

The incumbent chair of the Education Sub-Committee, Chris Venn-Brown has resigned his position due to business pressures. Being mindful of a change of emphasis with regards to the needs of younger professionals, the opportunity has been taken to re-arrange the sub-committee structure and a Professional Development Sub-Committee has been formed to replace the Education Sub-Committee. The inaugural Chair of this new sub-committee will be Ravi Ravitharan who already has undertaken much good work around the topic of professional development. The Executive is very appreciative of the large effort Chris put in over a number of years. Thanks Chris!

## MEET THE RAILWAY PEOPLE EXPO

The Meet the Railway People Expo that recently was held in Melbourne proved to be a great success with a good deal of support from the railway industry, the local universities and the students themselves. It is planned to hold further Expos in other States. The RTSA is indebted the Victorian Department of Transport for its generous sponsorship of this event and to Engineers Australia for the attendance of its President and other senior officers.

## STORE2009

The Executive received a report on the highly successful Study Tour that was conducted in South East Asia in October. The party comprising twenty seven people including nine young engineers who were subsidized by the RTSA, visited Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Shanghai, Beijing, Changsha-Zhuzhou and Hong Kong and they were greatly impressed by all of the railway facilities that were inspected during a hectic tour of four countries in ten days. Subsequently the RTSA was invited to make a presentation on the lessons learnt from the Tour to the Independent Inquiry into Sydney's long term transport needs and our subsequent attendance before the Inquiry Panel was well received. Consideration will be given to another STORE in 2011.

## YOU TUBE COMPETITION

Disappointingly the You Tube Video Competition organised by the NSW Chapter attracted two entrants only. The likely reasons for this disappointed result have been analyzed and it has been concluded a National Competition shall be pursued in 2010. Katharina Gerstmann has volunteered to spearhead the initiative.

## DEPARTING EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Special Representatives, Rebecca Taylor and Daniel Martucci have graciously served their term and the Executive is very appreciative of their efforts: thanks Bec and Daniel!

Andrew Honan has relinquished his role as Deputy Chair and previously NSW Chair after some big years leading initiatives in NSW. Thanks Andrew!

Chris Venn-Brown departs as Education Sub-Committee Chair after many years of work, much appreciated.