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ACEN NEWS CIRCULAR: NOV 2022 - APRIL 2023:

Dear valued ACEN Member

Trust that all of you are in good health.

1. GENERAL

The ACEN Council meets on a monthly basis, discussing various industry related matters and always striving to improve connections with industry role players and associates.

1.1 MEMBERSHIP

ACEN Members are advised to share with Council if they identify any non-member, Consulting Engineering firm to be contacted with respect to becoming ACEN Members.

Council wants to integrate Project Managers to be part of ACEN therefore ACEN Members can nominate Project Management candidates to serve on the ACEN Council.

1.2 NEW MEMBERS AND CHANGES

- The following firms joined ACEN
 - Hexagon Engineering
 - Conselect Engineering

VDM Consultants has terminated ACEN Membership.

Collection of Membership Fees for 2023 has been relatively good, payment of ACEN Membership Fees are due by the end of June 2023.

2. CONTRACTUAL DOCUMENTATION – PROCSA

The Annexure C - ACEN Recommended Fee Scales **for Engineers** E4.0 V1.1 as well as the Annexure C - ACEN Recommended Fee Scales **for Project Managers** E4.0 V1.0 were updated and distributed to Members in July 2022.

The cross references in the Annexure C - ACEN Recommended Fee Scales for Engineers_E4.0_V1.1 as well as the Annexure C - ACEN Recommended Fee Scales for Project Managers_E4.0_V1.0 to be adjusted. This document will be sent to Members by July 2023.

Adjustments to Constant A & Disbursement Schedule will also be done and will be set to Members towards July 2023.

3. FIDIC AFRICA

Herewith record of decisions at the FIDIC GAM 13 September 2022.

- The FIDIC Conference is planned for Cape Town, South Africa in 2025, which should make it considerably more affordable for many more MA's from our Region to attend; It may be a good idea to budget and plan for this starting early, if at all possible;
- The Candidate, Manish Kothari from ACEC, for whom we had advocated support from our Regional MA's, was successfully elected to the FIDIC Board;
- FIDIC Africa's 29th Conference is to be held in Livingstone, Zambia from 21-24 May 2023.

4. INCENTIVE TO ACEN MEMBER FIRMS THAT ENGAGE IN APPOINTING INTERNS

ACEN has decided to increase the percentage of reward involving the Internship Incentive program that was initiated in 2019 for our Member firms committed towards appointing and guiding Interns.

The objective of the Internship Initiative is to recompense Member firms that engage in appointing interns with 40% of the rate per supervising Professional/Incorporated engineers for Interns being appointed.

5. ACEN WEBSITE AND MARKETING

Link to the ACEN Website: <https://acen.org.na/>

From ACEN's side we wish to encourage you to make use of the interactive ACEN Facebook page.

Use this the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/consultnamibia>

ACEN has also joined the LinkedIn team recently.

Kindly send any relevant news, job openings or information on projects to Deoné Nel to post on the social media platforms or share to the ACEN social media pages.

6. GREEN HYDROGEN OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities in the Green Hydrogen field are arising, Council feels that government should be approached to ensure that local expertise should be used on these projects to ensure a positive impact on the local economy. Engineering works in Namibia should be performed and signed off by ECN registered engineers.

Although government is still busy finalizing the related policies, the Namibian industry should be pro-active in the process from the start.

Council agreed that this matter should be driven by the ECN which is the statutory body representing the Engineers. The matter is closely monitored and constantly followed up by our ACEN Council Members currently serving on the ECN Council.

7. TERMINATION OF ACEN MEMBERSHIP

Kindly take note of the following very important Directive:

Membership Fees outstanding by the end of June will result in immediate termination of ACEN Membership. If such a Member wish to re-apply for ACEN Membership in future the following will apply:

The Member will be charged with the outstanding debt balance, which will be a pro-rata amount based on date of invoice (i.e. 1 March) until date of termination of Membership letter (usually in July, shortly after the ACEN AGM).

The Member will be on a 3 months' probation period before qualifying for a good standing status letter.

However, Member Firms who intentionally give notice of termination before end of March (during the same month as invoicing) will not be penalised when re-applying for Membership, but no Member will be able to re-apply for Membership during the same year as termination of ACEN Membership.

8. LEGAL OPINION ON MINISTRY DIRECTIVES

The ED of the MWT has sent a letter with **attached** Directives relating to procedures to be followed when submitting invoices to ACEN to forward to ACEN Members.

The legitimacy of some of the contents of these Directives are disputed. ACEN appointed Adv Apie Small in collaboration with Theunissen, Louw & Partners to prepare a legal opinion on same, which has been received and is currently being studied by Council before it will be circulated to our Members..

9. ENGINEERING COUNCIL OF NAMIBIA (ECN)

The following is being dealt with by ACEN at ECN level:

Draft Professions' (Engineering) Act

Council: President – F Holtzhausen, Vice-President – D Langford, Treasurer - J van der Merwe
Members – H Klink, E Cuff, C Mostert, B Hanstein-Kaber, E Haludilu
Secretary – D Nel

Registration of Legal Entities under the Engineering Act 18 of 1986

The draft Engineering Act also requires registered professionals who want to do business as a Consulting Engineering Company to register with ECN. This item should be clarified in the new Act.

CPD Points

The structure of CPD points needed for accreditation is not specified in the current version of the draft Engineering Act. This item should be incorporated into in the new Engineering Act. ECN is busy formulating a policy in this regard.

ECN made a decision to prepare a proposal relating CPD points whilst waiting for conclusion on the Act. Their Constitution allows for it could be implemented before the Act is enacted.

Request for Hourly Tariff increase

The previous application for the proposed new hourly tariff has not yet been approved by the MWT.

Updated Disbursement Schedule

The current version of the updated Disbursement Schedule for Quantity Surveyors and Architects is not applicable to Engineers therefore the ECN should prepare a recommended Disbursement Schedule for Engineers to submit to the MWT for approval.

ECN Council

Blanché Hanstein-Kaber and Erastus Haludilu were appointed as ACEN representatives on the newly elected ECN Council. The following items are on the Agenda to be handled in the next ECN Council Meeting.

- The Legal Opinion received from Advocate Small, has been presented to the ECN Council, Mrs Tekie confirmed that from ECN's side, they see no problem to write a letter to the Minister to confirm that directives cannot just be issued that contradict the law.
- The Green Hydrogen projects as per item 6 is added to the agenda as well.

10. DEPARTMENT OF WORKS (DoW)

Liaising with DoW (MWT)

Referring to outstanding points relating the meeting held between ACEN and the Honourable Minister of MWT and other senior delegates of Works on the 30th of May 2022; a letter was sent to the ECN Council for further action from their side.

11. ADMINISTRATION

ACEN office hours: 8H00 until 13H00 on Mondays to Fridays.

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Kindly verify that you are using the correct ACEN contact information in all of your outgoing correspondence.

Find relevant information relating to the new ACEN Council below:

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Members – H Klink, E Cuff, C Mostert, B Hanstein-Kaber, E Haludilu
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