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ACEN NEWS CIRCULAR - OCTOBER 2023:

Dear ACEN Member

Trust that all of you are in good health and doing well.

1. GENERAL

The ACEN Council meets monthly, discussing various industry related matters and always advancing networks between industry counterparts.

Find relevant information relating to the new ACEN Council below:

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Nicky Mbaimbai and Gert Maritz were elected during the 2023 ACEN AGM to serve as ACEN Council Members. We wish to welcome them on the ACEN Council.

We also want to thank Heiko Klink for his time spent and involvement as a Council Member.

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.

ACEN currently have 60 Consulting Firms as Members which employs a total of 300 Professional and Incorporated Engineers as well as 43 Engineering Technicians.

1.2 NEW MEMBERS AND CHANGES

- The following firms joined ACEN.
 - Tweya CE
 - Green Route CE
 - Trinitas CE
 - Conselect Consulting
 - RCE Consultants

Struxit CE and Blueprint CE has terminated ACEN Membership.

ACEN Membership Fees for 2023 has been paid in full. The total amount of Fees paid ads up to N\$ 625,024.43.

2. CONTRACTUAL DOCUMENTATION – PROCSA

The Annexure C - ACEN Recommended Fee Scales for Engineers E4.0 V1.2 was updated and will be distributed to Members soon.

Adjustments to Constant A & Disbursement Schedule were done and were sent to Members in August 2023.

3. STANDARDIZED FEE CLAIM TEMPLATE:

The Fee Account Template document, to be used as a preferred claim format was also updated and will be distributed soon.

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

10 Member Firms have claimed refunds this year. The total amount of refunds paid ads up to N\$ 18,647.61.

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.

ACEN sent a letter on the subject to the ECN for their input, requesting the letter to be forwarded to government.

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

Legal opinions on Consulting Fees Charged for Travelling Time/Standing Time and Fees Charged on Load-Bearing Brickwork were obtained and circulated to Members in May 2023.

Referring to the Legal Opinions, ACEN wrote two letters to the ECN, one regarding the Directive we received Dec.2022 on no payment will be made for claims on Disbursements of 2022 claimed in 2023 and the other letter covered Travelling Time/Standing Time and Fees Charged on Load-Bearing Brickwork.

The ECN is currently perusing the letters after which it will be sent to the MWTC.

The same process will be followed relating the newest Directive received from MWTC on Copyright issues.

9. ENGINEERING COUNCIL OF NAMIBIA (ECN)

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

Draft Professions' (Engineering) Act

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 decided 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. A new, updated request will be resubmitted.

Updated Disbursement Schedule

The former version of the updated Disbursement Schedule for Quantity Surveyors and Architects was not yet approved by the Ministry, therefore ACEN will, through the ECN and in cooperation with the Architects and QS's prepare a recommended Disbursement Schedule to submit to the MWT for approval.

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. MEMBER SURVEY

ACEN is about to launch a survey among ACEN Members to determine their needs, expectations, and level of satisfaction with regards to ACEN's effectiveness.

A link will be sent to the ACEN members to take part in the survey.

12. ADMINISTRATION

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

P O BOX: 25837, Windhoek, Namibia

CONTACT NUMBER: 081 358 6057

Council: President – D Langford, Vice-President – G Maritz, Treasurer – E Cuff
Members – N Mbaimbai, C Mostert, B Hanstein-Kaber, E Haludilu, J van der Merwe
Secretary – D Nel

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