

## Update on the SAIChE IChemE relationship

IChemE is a multi-national organisation headquartered in the UK. The Institution exists to advance the contribution of chemical engineering worldwide for the benefit of society.

We can only achieve this goal by working with our key partners across the globe. Over the past decade, we have entered into several agreements with national entities that have explored how, by working together, we are able to advance the knowledge and practice of chemical engineers.

In 2014, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with our sister body the South African Institution of Chemical Engineers (SAIChE). This agreement created a joint SAIChE and IChemE membership under a single subscription. The agreement allows joint members access to IChemE and SAIChE member resources including the option to professionally register as a CEng with the Engineering Council or a PrEng with Engineering Council South Africa (ECSA). The agreement is due to be reviewed prior to renewal in July 2019.

In the [IChemE Annual Review 2017](#), published in May 2018, I advised that one of my first moves as Chief Executive was to review the Institution's registration processes and ensure that we operated them in a fair and consistent manner. This comprised a variety of measures including; addressing the length of time that it took to lapse a member for non-payment, through to ensuring that subscription rates were consistently applied across the globe, and as a minimum were sufficient to cover costs. I also highlighted that we had been operating international agreements with some of our partners that were not delivering in-line with these expectations and therefore needed to be reshaped. This included the Institution's relationship with SAIChE.

Since then, IChemE has been working with SAIChE to review our collaborative arrangements. The outcome of our discussions thus far has resulted in some short-term corrective actions to address the key discrepancies that were identified. We have also committed to revising the text of the agreement early in 2019, so that when it is next renewed in July, we can ensure that it delivers benefit to both parties.

2019 subscription notices for joint SAIChE-IChemE members are currently being processed. Those residing in South Africa have been issued with a notice that has been signed off by SAIChE President, Craig Sheridan. These members will be charged an annual subscription rate set by SAIChE's Council.

Joint members residing outside of South Africa will receive their subscription notice from IChemE President, Ken Rivers this month. These members will retain their SAIChE-IChemE affiliation; however, in order to be fair to other IChemE members, they will be charged at the appropriate rate for their grade and country of residence. Previously, members affiliated with SAIChE have paid the South African rate to SAIChE, rather than paying the applicable rate to their local IChemE branch. This administrative-only anomaly came to light as a part of our recent review of the mechanisms set up under the MoU. However, retrospective corrective action for previous years is not being considered, and corrective action is only being taken for the current and future subscription years.

As we move to a financially sustainable position for this relationship, we can now concentrate our efforts on delivering the original sentiment of the agreement; whereby IChemE's wider membership benefits from the contribution that South African chemical engineers can add and the profession in South Africa benefits from greater economies of scale and access to a global learned society.

In 2019, we will continue working on our multi-national business architecture to ensure that we operate in a cost-effective and efficient manner and that each region is delivering local services in a wholly

sustainable way. This requires us to ensure that wherever we operate or work with financially independent branches, in addition to servicing their own member needs, they must be able fully meet their obligations to the wider membership without the need for cross-subsidy.

If you have any questions regarding SAICHe-IChemE please email [saiche@icheme.org](mailto:saiche@icheme.org).

Jon Prichard

Chief Executive

1 February 2019