

**Annual Report to
CPEng Council 09**



Registration Authority's Annual Report to the Chartered Professional Engineers Council

For the period 1 January – 31 December 2009

Presented to

Chartered Professional Engineers Council
pursuant to section 52 of the Chartered
Professional Engineers of New Zealand Act 2002.

The Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand Inc, as the Registration Authority under the Chartered Professional Engineers of New Zealand Act 2002, is required to report to the Chartered Professional Engineers Council each year on the activities related to administering the Register of Chartered Professional Engineers (CPEng) for the previous calendar year. This report covers the seventh year of operation of the CPEng Register.

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THE 2009 YEAR IN REVIEW

Overview

During the reporting period, the Registration Authority:

- made registration decisions, the nett effect of which was to increase the number of Chartered Professional Engineers to 2,488 – from 2,453 at the end of 2008
- had 29 registrants in abeyance at the end of the reporting period – eight for non-payment of fees and 21 who requested voluntary abeyance
- conducted 823 continued registration assessments
- completed assessments for seven Design Verifiers (with two being approved for design verification in multiple equipment categories) and 20 Category A Recognised Engineers
- trained or provided refresher training for assessors, giving a current total of 48 active staff assessors and 231 practice area assessors
- notified 224 registrants of the requirement to complete an assessment for continued registration in 2010
- made disciplinary orders against three Chartered Professional Engineers, with all receiving fines and one also being suspended – all were required to undertake an early continued registration assessment.

Assessment for Admission to Chartered Professional Engineers Register

IPENZ received 199 (214)¹ applications for assessment for admission (AFA) to the CPEng register during the reporting period in addition to 128 (103) applications being processed at the start of the reporting period. Of these, 203 (170) were approved, 20 (19) were declined, and 22 (0) applications were withdrawn before processing was completed. No applications were lapsed because applicants took more than six months to submit required material missing on receipt of application. At the end of the reporting period there were 82 (128) applications still being processed.

The median processing time for successful AFA applications completed during the reporting period was 133 days. It is difficult to make meaningful comparisons with last year's report due to the compatible time tracking information being unavailable for all cases as a consequence of a change in database software; however, this figure is higher than figures reported in previous years and reflects the high assessor workload during 2009.

¹ Figures in parentheses represent the equivalent figure in last year's report.

Assessment for Continued Registration on Chartered Professional Engineers Register

There were 799 registrants due to undertake continued registration assessment (CRA) during 2009 and they were notified of this requirement in October 2008. There were 809 CRAs received during the period and 64 being processed at the start of the period. Of these, 752 were approved, 66 suspended (mainly due to not submitting a portfolio of evidence for assessment) and five removed after not meeting the standard for continued registration. A further 53 registrants chose to resign from the register (10 of them prior to the reporting period). A total of 50 assessments were still in progress.

The median processing time for successful CRA applications completed during the reporting period was 105 days. As noted in the processing time for AFAs, meaningful comparisons with last year's report are difficult due to the changes in database software; however, this figure is higher than previous years and again is a reflection of the high assessor workload during 2009.

Other Changes to Chartered Professional Engineers Register

The CPEng Act has provisions for registrants to be placed in abeyance, either by the registrant requesting it (referred to in this report as "voluntary" abeyance), or by the Registration Authority placing registrants in abeyance if they have overdue fees (referred to as "forced" abeyance). The Act requires that the Registration Authority must immediately revive a person's registration once anyone in forced abeyance pays all overdue fees.

Losses: During the reporting period, losses from the register included four deaths, nine placed in abeyance for failure to pay fees, three removed for non-payment of fees (after being in forced abeyance for 12 months), five removed after 12 months in suspension and 43 resignations. There were 18 registrants placed in voluntary abeyance and at the end of the period there were a total of 27 registrants in abeyance.

Gains: Apart from the addition of new registrants listed above, there were eight registrants previously in abeyance who had their registration revived and are now currently registered.

The following table summarises the various changes that occurred during 2009.

Table 1: Changes to CPEng registrant numbers during 2009

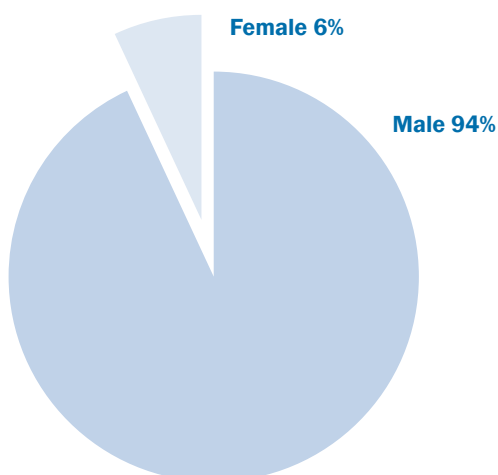
Registrants	Count
Register count at the end of the period (X_c)	2,488
Number of registrants in abeyance at the end of the period (X_a)	27
Register count at the start of the period (Y)	2,453
Nett change in number of registrants ($= X_c + X_a - Y = G - L$)	62
Total losses, from	
Resignations (R_1)	43
Removals (disciplinary) (R_2)	0
Removals (not met CRA standard) (R_3)	5
Removals (non-payment of fees – after “forced abeyance”) (R_4)	3
Removals (after one year of suspension) (R_5)	5
Suspensions (disciplinary action) (S_1)	1
Suspensions (not met CRA standard) (S_2)	66
Abeyance – forced (A_F)	9
Abeyance – voluntary (A_V)	18
Death (D_1)	4
Total losses: $L = R_1 + R_2 + R_3 + S_1 + S_2 + A_F + A_V + D_1$	149
Total gains, from	
AFAs added to register (including TTMRA candidates) (G_A)	203
Revival after being in abeyance (R_A)	8
Revival after being in suspension (R_S)	0
Total gains: $G = G_A + R_A + R_S$	211
Assessments – AFAs	
Number in progress at start of period (A_1)	128
Number received during period (A_2)	199
Number approved during period (as above) (G_A)	203
Number declined during period (A_3)	20
Number withdrawn during period (A_4)	22
Number in progress at the end of the period (A_5)	82
Sum: $(A_1 + A_2) = (G_A + A_3 + A_4 + A_5)$	327
Assessments – CRAs	
Number received during period (C_0)	809
Number in progress at the start of the period (C_1)	64
Number approved during period (C_3)	752
Number suspended during period (as above) (S_2)	66
Number removed during period (as above) (R_3)	5
Number withdrawn during the period (C_4)	53
Number in progress at end of period (C_5)	50
Sum: $(C_0 + C_1) = (C_3 + S_2 + R_3 + C_4 + C_5)$	873

Observations on Chartered Professional Engineers Register

Gender breakdown

Chartered professional engineers are overwhelmingly male, and the current gender breakdown is basically unchanged since last year – in fact these figures have remained reasonably static over the last few years. The Registration Authority recognises that young women engineers who leave the workforce to raise a family without undertaking assessment for CPEng are unlikely to undertake assessment at a future date. The special needs of young female engineers is an issue to be addressed as part of a comprehensive review of the assessment process and standards proposed for 2010.

Figure 1: Gender breakdown of CPEng registrants



Fields of engineering practice

When applicants apply for CPEng, they must provide a brief description of their practice area and identify one or more of the 17 practice fields to which their specific practice area best aligns. As a result, registrants may have aligned their practice areas to multiple practice fields. **Table 2** provides a breakdown of the practice fields presented by CPEng applicants for all assessments successfully completed during 2009.

Table 2: Alignment of CPEng registrants' practice area with broad practice fields

Practice Field	For all assessments undertaken in 2009	
	Count	Percentage
Civil	565	32.4
Structural	307	17.6
Management	246	14.1
Environmental	166	9.5
Mechanical	94	5.4
Transportation	82	4.7
Electrical	77	4.4
Geotechnical	68	3.9
Building Services	41	2.3
Industrial	37	2.1
Fire	22	1.3
Chemical	14	0.8
Petroleum	11	0.6
Information	9	0.5
Aerospace	4	0.2
Mining	2	0.1
Bio	1	0.1

Geographical distribution

Table 3 shows the geographical distribution of all CPEng registrants. There is a significant number of CPEngs who are currently practising overseas – 10 per cent of all currently registered CPEng (down from 11 per cent for 2008).

Table 3: Geographical distribution of CPEng registrants

Branch	Count	Percentage
Auckland	913	36.7
Canterbury	308	12.4
East Coast	7	0.3
Hawke's Bay	61	2.5
Manawatu	29	1.2
Nelson-Marlborough	68	2.7
Northland	46	1.8
Otago	82	3.3
South Canterbury	13	0.5
Southland	30	1.2
Taranaki	38	1.5
Waikato-Bay of Plenty	252	10.1
Wanganui	12	0.5
Wellington	367	14.8
West Coast	13	0.5
Rest of World	245	9.8
Unknown	4	0.2

Age distribution

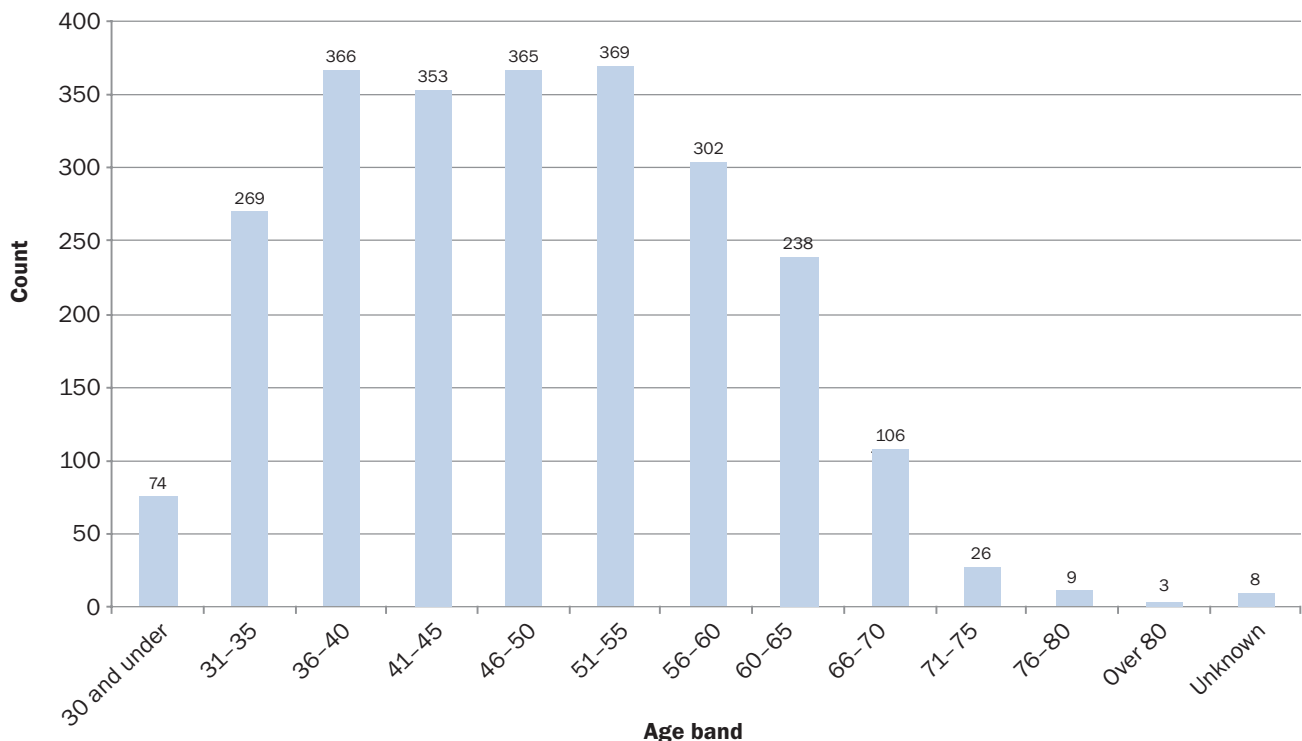
Table 4 shows the age distribution of Chartered Professional Engineers. There is a relatively even spread across the age bands 36 to 60. Interestingly, almost one in six CPEngs are over the age of 60.

Table 4: Age distribution of CPEng registrants

Range	Count	Percentage
30 and under	74	3.0
31-35	269	10.8
36-40	366	14.7
41-45	353	14.2
46-50	365	14.7
51-55	369	14.8
56-60	302	12.1
61-65	238	9.6
66-70	106	4.3
71-75	26	1.0
76-80	9	0.4
Over 80	3	0.1
Unknown	8	0.3

Figure 2 provides the age distribution data in graphical form.

Figure 2: Plot of the age distribution of current CPEng registrants



Competency Assessment Board

The Competency Assessment Board (CAB) met monthly during the reporting period (except for January – no meeting, and December – two meetings) to approve recommendations from assessment panels. On rare occasions, the CAB also used electronic decision-making means to avoid delay on particular assessments.

Training of Assessors

There are currently 48 Chartered Professional Engineers qualified and active as staff assessors, including two staff assessors who also undertake knowledge assessments. This is a decrease of 11 on the number available for 2008 and matches the lower number of continued registration assessments due in 2010.

There are currently 231 practice area assessors, a reduction of four on the previous year.

Table 5: Summary of assessor numbers at the end of 2009

Assessor Type	Count
Practice area	231
Staff	46
Knowledge; staff	2
Total	279

The “virtual private network” first set up in 2003 continues to be used to share information among all assessors, and thus acts as a means to assist moderation.

Support Systems

During 2009 an online portal for assessors was introduced to facilitate the distribution of information both to and from assessment panels as well as enabling the assessment process itself – especially for assessors located in different geographical centres. This system is supplemented by an online referee request system, where the candidate identifies referees online and uploads relevant documents (such as the competence self-review form). The referee then completes his or her report online, and the completed report is automatically submitted to the assessment panel making significant savings in time and demands on staff resources. The assessor portal allows transfer of documents to be conducted electronically is now the only means by which assessment panels submit reports to the CAB. During 2009 its use led to significant processing efficiencies.

The Assessor Portal has also been used to improve the level of communication with candidates who are also IPENZ Members. Standardised entries made by assessors in the online Application Tracking Log can now be viewed by candidates through the Members’ Area of the IPENZ website. A copy of the final assessment report is also made available to candidates online for a period of one month following the final decision on their assessment by the CAB. During 2010, extending these services to non-IPENZ members will be investigated as part of the development of an online application portal.

Competence Reviews and Appeals by Declined Applications

There were no procedural reviews or appeals relating to registration decisions during 2009.

CPEng Rule Changes

There were no changes made to the CPEng Rules during 2009.

Knowledge Assessments

The knowledge assessment has now been in use for several years and has proven to be very useful in gaining information on an applicant’s level of engineering knowledge where a candidate does not have a relevant accredited engineering qualification. The requirement for a knowledge assessment is determined by the assessment panel; however, applicants who do not hold a Washington Accord or a Washington Accord equivalent degree are advised they should expect to be required to undertake a knowledge assessment. There were 31 (14) knowledge assessments completed this year with a further eight still in progress. In all but six (three) of the completed knowledge assessments, applicants were able to demonstrate that they had acquired the level of knowledge equivalent to a Washington Accord degree.

CPEng Registration Under TTMRA

The Registration Authority has continued to apply the policy developed in 2004 for handling applications for CPEng from Registered Professional Engineers Queensland (RPEQ), as required under the Trans Tasman Mutual Recognition Act (TTMRA). During the reporting period, two (one) applications were received and were approved (but in both cases, the registrant was required to undertake an immediate continued registration assessment and these were still being processed at year end).

Discipline

Six complaints concerning Chartered Professional Engineers were being processed at the start of 2009, and a further 17 complaints were received during the year. Of these 23 complaints, six were dismissed, all of these under Rule 57(ba) – “the alleged misconduct is insufficiently grave to warrant further investigation”. Three complaints went through Disciplinary Committee hearings, and 11 complaints were still active at the end of the reporting period – seven being investigated by Investigating Committees and four complaints were in the initial investigation stage having been received late in 2009. Two complaints are with the Investigating Committee Chair, one of these is on hold with matters to be resolved with the local council. Three complaints are “on hold” pending outcomes from outside

the process – one is awaiting an Environment Court decision and two complainants are attempting alternative dispute procedures (i.e. their complaints have been received but no action is being taken until further notice from the complainant). At the end of the reporting period the Registration Authority is considering whether to treat the three complaints “on hold” pending outcomes outside the complaints process as “withdrawn”, given that both parties involved (complainant and defendant) asked that no action be taken in the meantime.

Three engineers were disciplined and fined. The online CPEng register contains details of disciplinary actions taken against Chartered Professional Engineers in the last three years.

Table 6: Summary of complaints processed during the reporting period

Complaints Against CPEng Registrants	Number*
Received during 2009	17 (13)
Carried over from 2008	6 (4)
Undergoing initial investigation	4 (4)
Before Investigating Committee	7 (2)
Before Disciplinary Committee	0 (0)
Disciplinary Committee decisions	3 (3)
Dismissed or withdrawn	6 (8)
Action pending outcomes outside complaints process	3 (0)

* Numbers in parentheses represent figures from the report for 2008.

REGISTRATION STATISTICS (AS REQUIRED UNDER SECTION 52(2) OF THE ACT)

Table 7 provides a summary of the registration statistics required by section 52(2) of the Act for the reporting period (2009).

Table 7: Registration statistics for 2009 (as required under the Act)

Registration Statistics for 2009	Number*
Chartered Professional Engineers at the end of the reporting period	2,488 (2,435)
Applicants (first) registered during the reporting period	203 (170)
Applicants declined registration during the reporting period	20 (19)
Registrants removed during the reporting period (includes removals, deaths and resignations)	87 (73)
Registrants suspended during the reporting period	67 (0)
Registrants placed in abeyance during the reporting period	27 (13)
Disciplinary orders made during the reporting period	3 (0)

* Numbers in parentheses represent figures from the report for 2008.

REGISTRATION CHARGES

The fees schedule applicable for 2009 is provided as **Appendix 1**, and the table in **Appendix 2** summarises the overall costs and fees for CPEng operations over the reporting period.

At the start of the reporting period, the Registration Authority had an operating deficit estimated to be of the order of \$600,000 (and it would not be unreasonable for there to be compensation for lost earnings on this amount). During 2009 as set out in **Appendix 2**, small surpluses in assessments (\$91,234) and operational costs (\$92,395) were offset by losses in IT services (\$88,491) and professional standards (\$87,115). Therefore no gains are being made. **Appendix 2** sets out the rationale for cost estimation in 2009.

OTHER CPEng-BASED QUALITY MARKS

Certification of Amusement Devices

The Department of Labour administers regulations relating to amusement devices², and there is a requirement that engineers certifying amusement devices are CPEng registered and “hold a qualification in mechanical engineering”. IPENZ continues to produce a report for the Department listing those engineers who meet these criteria.

Design Verifiers

IPENZ is also a “qualifications issuing agency” under another set of regulations administered by the Department of Labour³. These regulations require that a qualifications issuing agency issues certificates of competence for Design Verifiers. The Department of Labour supported the proposal by IPENZ to make CPEng a prerequisite for Design Verifiers, and suggested that the proposal be put to consultation with interested parties. The proposal went through a consultation process and eight submissions were received. Minor changes were made to the proposal before it was implemented in August 2009. Seven applications for Design Verifier were completed during the year and one application was in progress at the end of the reporting period.

During 2009, Design Verifiers were assessed against the CPEng competence standard as CPEng registration was made a pre-requisite for a certificate of competence as a Design Verifier in 2008. There appears to have been a greater awareness and interest in engineers attaining a certificate of competence as a Design Verifier. Guidelines for prospective Design Verifier applicants are currently being drafted and once complete will be used to promote an even

greater awareness among engineers working in the relevant area. One of the goals of the change has been to develop a larger pool of people who can be called upon to perform design verification, as previously Design Verifiers were seen as an ageing group with little sign of younger engineers developing the required skills.

Category A Recognised Engineer

There was a steady stream of candidates undertaking assessment for Category A Recognised Engineer during 2009 to make the pool of Recognised Engineers now of sufficient size to enable the regulatory regime for Dams Safety Certificates under the Building Act to be workable. The Registration Authority has, with the assistance of New Zealand Society of Large Dams (NZSOLD), promoted the quality mark to engineers working in dams safety, including a presentation by the Registrar at the NZSOLD annual conference.

Heavy Vehicle Certifiers

Work is currently in progress with the support of the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA), the Road Transport Certifying Engineers group (RTCE) and the Registration Authority to require all Heavy Vehicle Certifiers to be CPEng registered. Currently a significant number are already CPEng, but NZTA proposes making CPEng a mandatory requirement for anyone wishing to sign a deed to be a Heavy Vehicle Certifier, as the obligations of the ethical code of conduct and the current competence standard are ways to raise the standard of heavy vehicle certification. The NZTA also sees the CPEng complaints and disciplinary procedure as a useful tool in the event that the competence of a Heavy Vehicle Certifier is questioned.

² Amusement Devices Regulations 1978 (SR 1978/294)

³

- Health and Safety in Employment (Pressure Equipment, Cranes, and Passenger Ropeways) Regulations 1999 (SR 1999/128)
- Health and Safety in Employment Regulations 1995 (SR 1995/167)

PROMOTION AND APPLICATION OF THE QUALITY MARK

IPENZ has continued to target three key sectors in promoting the CPEng quality mark:

1. regulators
2. purchasers
3. employers and human resource agencies.

Regulators

Department of Building and Housing

The Registration Authority, along with the CPEng Council and Association of Consulting Engineers New Zealand (ACENZ), has continued providing advice to the Department of Building and Housing (DBH) on the use of national competence-based registers as benchmarks of competence for presentation of engineering work.

The process for assessing Recognised Engineers is working well, addressing an early concern by DBH that the dams safety regulatory regime may be at risk if there were insufficient numbers of Recognised Engineers registered.

Building Consent Authorities

During the reporting period there was ongoing engagement with Building Consent Authorities (BCAs), mainly in giving advice on the status of an engineer's CPEng registration. Although some BCAs have expressed some reservations about the quality of engineering work by some CPEng, generally BCAs have not felt the matters to be sufficiently grave to warrant writing a letter of notification to the Registration Authority or lodging a complaint.

The Registration Authority has, with the support of the CPEng Council, sought co-operation of DBH in implementing some procedure (such as a requirement for BCA accreditation) that requires BCAs to report poor-quality work by registered professionals (such as Chartered Professional Engineers and Registered Architects) to the relevant registration body. The DBH response to date has been to suggest the Registration Authority work more closely with BCAs, encouraging them to report such matters to the Registration Authority. It has also acknowledged that a longer-term solution would be to use the Building Act review as a process to address the issue. The Registration Authority is disappointed that DBH has not taken a more proactive stance in addressing this issue.

Purchasers of Engineering Services

The Registration Authority continues to be supported by the CPEng Council in promotion of the CPEng quality mark

through the *Engineering Edge* publication. This information booklet is free of charge, and is frequently requested by employers and other parties likely to purchase the services of an engineer.

The brochure "Chartered Professional Engineer – What to look for when choosing a Professional Engineer" was reprinted during the year and made available to BCAs to assist in informing members of the public on the value of engaging Chartered Professional Engineers for professional engineering work.

Engineers' Employers and Recruitment Agencies

The fifth edition of *Engineering Edge* was produced during the year and continues to provide information for a range of people – prospective applicants, employers and purchasers of engineering services. The Registration Authority continues to work with recruitment agencies and companies that employ significant numbers of engineers, where CPEng has been promoted to them as opportunities arise. The Professional Development Partner (PDP) scheme is aimed at getting employers to develop structured systems that enhance professional development across all phases of an engineer's career, to cater for the CPEng requirement of ongoing competence assessments for continued registration. At the end of 2009, 28 organisations were recognised as PDPs, with a further two applications currently under consideration and 46 others working through various stages of preparing their PDP applications.

Engineers

Promotion of the CPEng quality mark to practising engineers has been an ongoing activity. Seminar presentations were held in various centres throughout the year and were well attended by potential CPEng applicants. Two general types of seminar are offered. The first targets recent graduates; introducing them to the quality marks, competence standard and application process, and encouraging mentoring and the progressive recording of work experience and professional development activities using the IPENZ online tools. The second targets more experienced engineers and provides more specific advice and guidance on the application process and preparation of a portfolio of evidence.

The Registration Authority has allocated additional resources in 2010 to target graduates with typically less than 10 years' post-graduate work experience in an effort to increase the

numbers undertaking competence assessment. Recent graduates will be contacted personally and encouraged to make use of IPENZ services (especially online systems for tracking work history development and CPD) so that when they are ready for assessment, they will have comprehensive records from which to compile their portfolios of evidence as part of their application for CPEng assessment.

In addition, in December one-day practical workshop sessions were run in Auckland and Wellington. These workshops gave potential applicants the opportunity to prepare their portfolio of evidence with an experienced “advisor” available to guide and respond to questions. These sessions were also well received and further workshops have been scheduled for 2010.

RELATED PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES THAT MAY IMPACT ON CPEng

Educational Preparation of Professional Engineers

IPENZ attended and contributed to the International Engineering Meetings held in Kyoto in 2009. The most significant outcome of the meetings was the adoption of a revised international exemplar graduate profile for graduates from a Washington Accord accredited degree. The changes to the graduate profile raised expectations around the extent to which graduates are exposed to specialised knowledge at the forefront of their discipline; are engaged with the research literature; are exposed to practice in multidisciplinary settings; and apply contextual knowledge such as ethics and project management. In addition, Malaysia, represented by the Board of Engineers Malaysia, became accepted as the 13th signatory to the Washington Accord.

Work continued on the National Engineering Education Plan project throughout the year. Key aspects of this work impacting at the professional engineer level were:

1. The development of a career model for engineers.

A copy of which was included in the latest edition of *Engineering Edge*

2. The development of a statement on the supply and demand for engineers following a detailed analysis in conjunction with the Department of Labour.

The overall conclusion drawn from the study was that New Zealand requires at least 33 per cent more (on a business-as-normal basis), and ideally 80 per cent more engineering graduates (for an innovation-led economy) to meet its future needs. While the study identified some shortages at the professional engineer level, the largest increases in graduate numbers were identified as being required in the engineering technician and engineering technologist graduates areas.

3. Consideration of the future shape of professional engineering education in New Zealand.

This work was driven in part by changes to the Washington Accord exemplar graduate profile, which was seen as involving an increase in the size of the knowledge base both from a technical and contextual perspective. Two rounds of consultation were held to canvas the views of the profession with the agreed outcome being that while ongoing benchmarking to the Washington Accord is seen as essential, further work is required to assess the extent of any gap between the current IPENZ accreditation criteria and the new Washington Accord exemplar graduate profile. An assessment of the extent of this gap will be undertaken by IPENZ and accreditation panels will be asked to assess programmes against any additional requirements in parallel with scheduled accreditation activities over the next two to three years. It is envisaged that the outcomes of these evaluations will provide a better knowledge base from which to assess the need to make changes to general qualification structures to retain alignment internationally through the Washington Accord.

It was however agreed that this process will be accelerated if:

- international panellists on IPENZ accreditation panels find that the IPENZ accreditation standard is substantively lower than the Washington Accord exemplar
- Australia decides to change its four-year programmes to ensure conformance to the new Washington Accord graduate profile
- there is a strategic move by the government to an innovation-led economy.

REGISTRATION AUTHORITY EXPECTATIONS FOR 2010

Projections for 2010 are for 250 applications from engineers who have not previously undertaken competence assessment (mainly graduates) and 250 continued registration assessments.

The process of notification of continued registration assessments for 2010 followed the same approach adopted for the 2009 CRAs. All registrants due for continued registration assessment during 2010 were advised of the date for submitting their portfolios of evidence, as well as the name of the staff assessor allocated to lead their assessment. The letter of notification was sent in late December 2009, and the dates for submitting portfolios of evidence ranged from 1 April 2010 to 1 August 2010. Staff assessors were also given a schedule of the continued registration assessments they will be responsible for during 2010.

After seven years of operation of the CPEng register, including two years processing large numbers of continued registration assessments, the Registration Authority considers it is appropriate to conduct a thorough review of the process next year. Terms of reference for the review will be developed in early 2010, but it is envisaged that the stocktake will consider all aspects of the process with a view to maximising effectiveness and efficiency (benchmarking to international best practice). Another key objective is seen as removing barriers to application perceived by candidates.

The effort in promoting the quality mark continues to be directed towards having regulators incorporate the quality mark into their regulatory framework, and having employers and recruitment agents use the quality mark as a benchmark of competence for recruitment decisions and as an integral part of quality assurance systems. The Registration Authority hopes that the Department of Building and Housing will provide better support – especially with making changes

to the Building Act. As has been noted in the past, there is a need for statute to require regulators to notify the Registration Authority where they have evidence of poor performance by Chartered Professional Engineers. Despite several years of working with regulators (Building Consent Authorities in particular), there is a reluctance to act on any such evidence, thus limiting the Registration Authority's ability to self-regulate the engineering profession.

IPENZ will continue to work within the profession to promote the quality mark to professional engineers, making full use of a range of material promoting CPEng to the profession and CPEng-qualified engineers to consumers.

IPENZ continues to use Members' funds to subsidise the operation of the CPEng regime to some extent as the register numbers grow to a point where a positive cash flow can be achieved to fund further promotion of CPEng. With the lower number of CRAs in 2010 (compared to 2008–09), additional staff resources have been allocated to work specifically with graduates in encouraging them to prepare for assessment for admission to the CPEng register. Over the last few years, the Registration Authority has noticed a growing number of graduates not undertaking competence assessments at a point when they would reasonably be expected to have acquired the level of competence for CPEng. The numbers undertaking assessment for admission is currently just over 200 a year when realistically nearer 300 to 400 would be expected.

IPENZ is of the view that active promotion of CPEng by the Department of Building and Housing as part of its overall regulatory framework, particularly in relation to producer statements, would be of considerable assistance towards meeting the purpose of the Act – to create a mark of quality for professional engineering services.

APPENDIX 1 – CPEng Fees for 2009

Initial Registration

Charge or rebate amount (excluding GST)

Registration application charge:	\$2,652.50
less any of the following rebates that apply:	
if there is no engineering knowledge assessment:	\$1,000
if there is no interactive assessment:	\$725
for each assessor (if any) who is not remunerated for an assessment during which there is an interactive assessment:	\$530
for each assessor (if any) who is not remunerated for an assessment during which there is no interactive assessment:	\$280
if the applicant applies for registration within six months after achieving CPEng equivalence through assessment by the Registration Authority:	\$375
if the applicant applies for registration within 24 months (but later than six months) after achieving CPEng equivalence through assessment by the Registration Authority:	\$125

Charge or rebate amount (excluding GST)

If the applicant has enrolled in a graduate competence development programme recognised by the Registration Authority for at least three years before making the application for registration, but has not achieved CPEng equivalence through assessment by the Registration Authority:	\$90
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Registration Certificates

Charge amount (excluding GST)

Registration certificate charge for a certificate issued for one year commencing 1 January:	\$285
Registration certificate charge for each calendar month, or part of a calendar month, for which a certificate is issued if issued for less than one year:	\$23.75

Continued Registration

Charge or rebate amount (excluding GST)

Interactive assessment charge:	\$725
less the following rebate if it applies:	
for each assessor (if any) who is not remunerated for the interactive assessment:	\$280

Review of Registration Decision Procedures

Charge amount (excluding GST)

Charge for review of decision procedures:	\$750
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Voluntary Abeyance

Charge amount (excluding GST)

Charge for each 12-month period of abeyance:	\$150
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APPENDIX 2 – Summary of fee income and costs incurred

Activity	Expenses	Income	Variance	Apportioned to CPEng
Assessments				100%
Total cost 2009 including staff costs	\$587,514	\$678,748	\$91,234	\$91,234
Ongoing operational costs				100%
Total cost 2009 including staff costs	\$128,391	\$220,786	\$92,395	\$92,395
IT services				80.0%
Total cost 2009 including staff costs	\$117,414	\$6,800	-\$110,614	-\$88,491
Service centre				
Total cost 2009 including staff costs	\$347,341	\$396,869	\$49,528	Balanced now
Professional standards				27.1%
Total cost 2009 including staff costs	\$697,376	\$376,087	-\$321,289	-\$87,115

Notes

1. All figures are for the year to 30 September 2009 and are taken from the IPENZ-audited accounts and associated management reporting.
2. Assessments – this cost centre includes applications for assessment for entry to CPEng and assessments for continued registration. Almost 100 per cent of the total cost was for CPEng, so 100 per cent of the costs were allocated.
3. Ongoing operational costs – \$92 income per registrant was allocated from the annual registration fees to this cost centre. All costs related to CPEng, including the CPEng Council levy.
4. IT service costs are primarily for the database development to support competence assessment process. It was estimated that 80 per cent of the costs for 2009 benefitted CPEng.
5. Service centre – \$38 income per registrant was allocated to this cost centre. Over the past few years the variance for the service centre function is sufficiently small that it is considered to be balanced. This function will not be included in future reports.
6. Professional standards – \$50 income per registrant was allocated to this cost centre. This covers a range of promotional and professional standards activity, which provides CPEng registrants with the same benefit as others.