

Judges face tough task ahead of CPD awards

The excellent calibre of entries received for the sixth annual CPD Company of the Year Award competition means that once again the judging panel for the premiere prize for engineering employers faces a difficult task in choosing the winning entries. Reflecting on the challenge, chairman of the judging panel, Michael Hayden, FIEI Chartered Engineer and President of the Irish Academy of Engineering said that: "In a challenging year for organisations it is encouraging to see so many using CPD effectively to deliver strong business benefits. This year's entries have revealed some excellent examples of firms using CPD to deal with efficiencies in a highly creative manner."

Joining Michael on the judging panel for the 2009 awards are Caríosa Kelly, head of training and development with HSBC Bank; Michael McDonnell, director CIPD Ireland and Barry Kenny, managing director of FDK Consulting. The winners will be announced on October 7 at a breakfast awards ceremony in The Ballsbridge Court Hotel, Lansdowne Road, Dublin 4. CPD Company of the Year Award category prizes will go to organisations of small, medium and large size as well as the overall winner of the 'Salmon of Knowledge', the 5,000-year-old bog oak perpetual trophy. For the second year, there will also be a special

prize for the not-for-profit/public sector organisation which best displays effective and efficient use of CPD in realising a meaningful project or initiative. This year the annual Engineers Ireland CPD Symposium has been combined with the CPD Company of the Year Award. The symposium is a major networking and learning event which showcases excellent examples of CPD in action.

This year's theme is 'Low-cost, high-impact CPD' to strategically adapt and innovate. Engineers Ireland is delighted that the keynote speaker this year is Dr Paul Duffy, the 2009 president of the American Chamber of Commerce Ireland and vice president for manufacturing in Ireland and Singapore for Pfizer Ireland Pharmaceuticals. The line-up of speakers also features Morgan Kilgallen, managing director of Kilgallen and Partners and Joe Horan, chief executive officer and county manager of South Dublin County Council who will detail the positive effects good use of CPD has had on their diverse businesses.

Gary Clerkin, a director from DePuy Ireland's new Innovation Centre will be discussing the link between professional development and innovation alongside David Moran, chief executive officer of ChangingWorlds, the 2008 Engineers Ireland CPD Company of the Year.

Michael Punch and Partners



John Power Chartered Engineer, Director General, Engineers Ireland, presents the CPD Accreditation Parchment to Ronan Stokes, director (left) and John Pollock, managing director (right) of Michael Punch and Partners.

ESB Networks



Following the recent successful audit of ESB Networks, John Power, Director General of Engineers Ireland (right), presents the CPD Accredited Employer parchment to John Shine, executive director of ESB Networks.

Top employers retain CPD title

Engineers Ireland extends congratulations to those organisations which were recently successful at audit when re-visited as part of the scheme's monitoring and updating process. WYG Ireland and Vilicom were recently re-accredited.

Waterford City Council hosts CPD event



Pictured at the contracts seminar in Waterford City Council are (l-r): Ray Mannix, senior engineer (WCC); Frank Roche, senior engineer (WCC); Damien Young and Philip Lee of Philip Lee Solicitors; and Lar Power, director of services (WCC).

The South-East region recently hosted a well-attended CPD event, on the topic of Legal Challenges to Public Works Contracts. Over 40 engineering professionals from the South-East region were present at the lecture, hosted by CPD Accredited Employer Waterford City Council in partnership with local firm Philip Lee Solicitors.