

Presidents AGM speech 2021.

Welcome to The Royal Institution of Naval Architects 2021 Annual General Meeting, and we all hope that next year we will be able to meet not only online but also physically at our premises. I trust that both you and your families are safe and well during these most challenging and testing times.

It is with great pleasure that I address you with my first speech as Chairman of the Board and President of RINA, a position I gratefully accepted following my election in May 2020, and it is an honour to represent the Institution.

Please join me in thanking Mr. Trevor Blakeley who served the Institution as Chief Executive for over 24 years. It is recognised that through his resolute and indomitable determination, membership grew, and a geographical footprint was established via global regions. The Vice President structure provides the framework for continuity and we really are a truly global organisation. Trevor's energy, commitment, and scrutiny in developing the by-laws has left the Institution in a healthy position, and he was instrumental in providing the foundations for RINA's stable investments. I would like to thank Trevor for his service to our cherished Institution and his continued support.

Let me take this opportunity to again welcome our new Chief Executive, Mr. Chris Boyd who started his tenure on the 1st of November 2020, following a smooth transition period.

The institution has set itself the goal of deeply analysing how to improve the services and activities offered to our Members, our Corporate Partner Members, and the organisations with which we have been collaborating for many years. To do this, we have launched a thorough review of the internal organisation, which is still underway, starting with the pressing priorities. I hope that my address will be stimulating, provide unity and focus on opportunities.

As part of the tradition, in the first part of my speech I will describe the activities and achievements of the Institution during these difficult times for us all, and then provide detail regarding our future vision.

It is a positive balance as the last twelve months have been a time of consolidation and reaction to the challenges faced and how we adapt for future growth, enabling RINA's mainstay position as number one in our field and our relevance in all sectors with our stakeholders.

First, I would like to talk about the events that have characterized the past months.

Membership

Membership remains buoyant and although many have faced hardships during this pandemic, the Institution is sympathetic, and we thank everyone for their continued support. However, we have noticed that since our peak in 2017, student membership has dropped and we attribute this to the effects of the pandemic, a situation which is being addressed by the Chief Executive.

The Council and Board of Trustees encourage younger members of the profession to be involved with the Institution, which maintains links with the 70+ universities and colleges where the Institution has members, but we cannot rest on our laurels and we must constantly demonstrate the value of membership. It provides

an international recognition of the achievement of the highest standards of professional competence and will be of benefit to members' professional development and their employers throughout their career.

Corporate Partner membership remains stable which is encouraging considering the commercial pressure placed on companies and the challenges of operating in an uncertain environment. We value our Corporate Partners and work together in unison identifying key areas for collaboration. We continue our positive dialogue with all of them to set priorities for the coming months, listening to their needs and sharing a common vision to be ready once we have more freedom to act.

The Institution's Branches and Sections have had full programmes of technical online meetings and I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Institution, to thank those members who freely give their time to serve on the Division Councils, Branch, and Section Committees. Without the time which they willingly give, such activities would not take place. It is due in no small part to their efforts that the Institution enjoys its international standing.

A major objective of the Institution is to promote its collective expertise and make it available for the benefit of the profession, maritime community, and society and this is achieved principally through the work of the Institution's committees:

- IMO Committee, Maritime Safety Committee, Maritime Environment Committee, Maritime Innovation Committee
- And working alongside the Professional Affairs Committee, Membership Committee, Publications Committee.

May I take this opportunity to offer my continued support for the *International Journal of Maritime Engineering (IJME)* and the successful restructuring including specialised Associate Editors who support the Editor-in-Chief in the following five key areas:

- design & construction
- safety/environment/shipping
- structures/materials
- control/autonomy
- hydrodynamics/CFD.

The University Buckingham Press now publishes the IJME on behalf of the Institution and we offer open access for authors consideration along with a fresh new look, and we look forward to receiving your papers. I would like to thank everyone involved in the transition and offer my gratitude to the previous and current Editor-in-Chief, Associate Editors, Publications Committee and the Chief Executive and Secretariat.

Couple this with the contribution of many members in refereeing papers or acting as professional review interviewers for those members seeking registration, we really offer excellence in all sectors of our profession. That contribution also comes from promoting the Institution and encouraging membership wherever you are, something I would commend to you all. These are all opportunities for members to put

something back into their Institution and their profession – nothing is more valued and appreciated than members' time and enthusiasm.

All the Institution's journals have continued to enjoy their well-deserved reputation as the leading technical journals in their fields, appreciated for the quality and scope of their content in the 100+ countries in which they are distributed. The regular eNewsletters to complement the full journals, continue to provide further up-to-date news, views, and information on what is happening in all sectors of the industry. The Institution continues to make full use of notifications through its social media and publishes selected presentations on our YouTube Channel.

The Institution has maintained its reputation for the quality of its international conferences. In the past twelve months, the Institution has organised or co-organised fourteen live and online events, covering a wide scope of technical content, and we thank all staff and members who contribute and ensure that the conferences are relevant to the challenges facing our industry today.

The Institution has continued to encourage high academic and professional standards by recognising the achievement of members of the profession and industry. It was a great pleasure to announce the award of the Institution's medals and prizes a few moments ago.

I hope you will agree that this report on the Institution's activities over the past twelve months is an encouraging and positive one, particularly when viewed against the backdrop of the difficulties which the maritime industry has experienced during the year, and from which the Institution cannot be immune.

The reaction of our Institution to the impact of the pandemic has been positive and that activity is appreciated. We will carry out all the actions that are necessary to maintain and further develop the leadership of our Institution in all areas of competence.

Members of the IMO Committee continue to participate in correspondence groups and submit or co-sponsor papers, whilst participating in IMO committees and sub-committees including the RINA global Naval Architecture Group.

The Membership Committee continues to consider applications for election and transfer of membership, with remote Professional Review Interviews being carried out.

The Publications Committee continue to meet frequently and support the IJME, publications and the Institution's award review process, amongst many other initiatives.

The Professional Affairs committee conducted online accreditation audits and I thank everyone for your time and commitment, ensuring that procedures are followed and implemented, and standards maintained. This was a tremendous effort, and our success must be credited to the experience and skills of our committee members and our staff. The Engineering Council audit is pending 1st June and the Professional Affairs committee, and the Secretariat are looking forward to the online review.

The other committees are all meeting remotely, and all technical committees are in close discussion.

It is business as usual, but with some new faces and in conclusion, today's meeting is an important milestone in an important year for the Institution. I hope that you will take away inspiration and the conviction that the route for the Institution's migration in our post-pandemic world is to retain its number one position by

adopting all the best available practices, such as the migration towards digital transformation. However, our post-pandemic world does not change the primary role of *The Royal Institution of Naval Architects* and our core values, but we will embrace the technology integration in all our field of competence.

Sustainability

In November it was my pleasure invite Mr. Bo Cerup-Simonsen, CEO of Maersk-Mckinney Moller Center for Zero Carbon Shipping, to present at the President's Invitation Lecture which was attended online by over 230 persons. The Institution continues to collaborate with partners and industry, enabling debate and thought leadership in this important area, and I look forward to the post-AGM presentation '*Sustainable transition to net-zero marine fuels*' by Dr Carlo Raucci, Marine Decarbonization Consultant, Lloyd's Register.

Shipping plays a major role in sustainability and the Institution's role and recognition is as strong now as in 1860:

"to promote and facilitate the exchange of technical and scientific information.... thereby to improve the design of ships".

The challenges put before us are welcomed and the need to decarbonise our sector, places the Institution at the centre of this very strong evolution that is taking place. The challenges we are currently focusing on, but not limited to are:

- Net-zero, alternate fuels, EEDI/EEXI, life cycle analysis, environmental impact
- Safety and manoeuvrability
- Cyber
- Artificial Intelligence
- Digital twins
- Autonomous vessels
- Smart ports etc.,

There is a great need to maintain a clarity of method in accompanying, encouraging and spreading the growth of new technologies that will support the transition to the possibility of reliable, sustainable and immediate reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. We will carry out all the actions necessary to maintain and further develop the leadership of our Institution in all areas of competence and the Board has made resources available for the execution of the shared vision.

Our motivation remains determined and its imperative that we maintain our steadfast collaboration within the IMO and RINA partners and continue challenging the technical parameters of marine science and design and include all sectors of the maritime collective.

Leadership

Leadership is paramount and we must be vigilant and address areas where the Institution needs to react and provide a welcoming and outward looking face to everyone, whilst addressing the future challenges for the sector.

The online events model will be best in class and whilst we recognise that during this year revenue has reduced due to the pandemic, please be assured that the Institution is developing a focused events program for next year and beyond.

We were very proud to announce that the Naval Architect celebrated its 50th birthday and to celebrate this event the publication received a makeover and I hope everyone enjoyed reading their copy. The IJME also received a new look, and we encourage everyone to subscribe to our excellent journal and contribute by supporting the magnificent work done by the editorial team, reviewers, and authors.

Let me give you another example of what is coming next and in anticipation we welcome the *RINA video*, which will be a new tool to raise awareness and convey our message to everyone, whether you study or work in academia, industry, maritime organisations, government or peak bodies etc., it is designed to reach out to generations enabling everyone to see what a dynamic sector we operate in and the vast array of opportunities available and the pivotal role the Institution plays.

The Institution is engaged in many initiatives and we are proud of our equality, diversity, and inclusion program. The Institution is committed to ensure that all individuals, regardless of gender, faith, or ethnicity, have equal opportunity to participate fully in all the Institution's activities. The annual Eily Keary Award recognises the contribution by an individual or organisation to increase equality, diversity and inclusion and we congratulate this year's winner.

Addressing '*what is a naval architect? ... Today?* by looking at the current and future role and how do we raise our profile and attract younger persons to consider a maritime career? So, what motivates generation Z? and how do we communicate our message?.....through RINA initiatives we are addressing all these areas for sustainable growth and it is encouraging to see the Institution partners collaborating in many of these areas.

You may ask how this will be achieved? The Institution has established a Task Force Group in the secretariat to expand on areas of specific interest, so we do not lose momentum. Just as an example, the university liaison program is currently under development and designed to get students engaged and integrated with the Institution.

Headquarters

In accordance with the UK Government's restrictions, headquarters remain closed, and all staff have been working remotely for over a year.

Live events were postponed and transferred online, and this has had an impact on the Institution's finances. The effects of the pandemic have inevitably led to a decline in advertising and sponsorship, which though understandable during the current climate, is not a situation which is sustainable.

The Future – 12 months look ahead.

The pandemic has been nothing short of a paradigm shift in culture and reacting to the changing landscape requires leadership, vision, and bravery. Strategic objectives have been set to increase membership and recognition and raise the Institution's profile. We acknowledge that step change is required in the way we communicate and many of you will be aware of the digital study instructed by the Board. The recommendations will enable the Institution to focus on its digital migration and roadmap, furthermore, enabling efficient communication and administration, cost effectiveness and standardisation of processes, which will benefit all members and operations.

The Institution has adopted the most promising strategies to deliver our goals, and we will strive to further interact with the divisions, sections, branches, technical committees, working groups, teaching professionals and the students on higher education courses with links to the Institution.

The Board of Trustees will continue to assess and review the impact for the remainder of this year, and the effect on activities next year. However, as far as conditions will allow, every effort is being made to carry on the Institution's core activities.

Everything is ready, and every week we talk with our existing partners with whom we have always had close collaborative relationships over the years, and we welcome new partners. The Board of Trustees has made the required resources available for our shared vision. In difficult times we accept the challenge by introducing innovation with our limited human resource and our task is to enhance our continued professional development and training both internally and externally.

Our Institution is on the right path, maintaining our leadership position and we will reinforce our number one position with all your help. We have demonstrated our resilience and we trust all our members will continue to support us and contribute to our shared vision.

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you and I look forward to receiving your questions.