

2025 Annual Report of Congress

This report covers Congress activities between the Institution's AGMs in June 2024 and June 2025. The outputs from all the Congress discussions are shared with the Trustees and their feedback and response via the President are always valued.

Congress met face to face just after the June 2024 AGM and is doing the same again this year. There have also been two on-line sessions during this period with Congress moving onto using IChemE Connect as the medium for our discussions.

A wide range of topics have been discussed. Congress discussed in a joint session with the Board the question of what is key chemical engineering knowledge and will this change in the future. Congress reviewed the new Climate Change Briefing prior to its release in time for COP 29. We have also considered motivations for becoming Chartered, the importance of continuing professional development (CPD) and what the members expect from their IChemE, positively noting changes such as the introduction of IChemE Connect and the programme of on-line sustainability training course available to members at no cost.

An important step was taken by Congress to restructure Congress membership to better reflect the type and geographical distribution of IChemE members, a change which the Board of Trustees has endorsed and this year's elections have begun the transition to the new structure over three years. In this year's elections, I have the pleasure of welcoming back one re-elected member and also eight new Congress members, taking the total membership to 25 (from 41 available seats).

It is part of Congress's role and duty to assess and report on the Institution's business strategy and accounts. Congress members have observed and approve of the continuing progress towards developing our Institution to serve our members and society. We commend the work of the Trustees and the Management in this continuing achievement and note the continuing desire to keep focus on future needs.

Congress cannot function without the support of the IChemE staff at Rugby and so I also would like to acknowledge the commitment and support of the CEO, Yvonne Baker, and the other members of IChemE staff who have helped Congress during the last year. This will be my last report to the AGM as Chair of Congress, I have enjoyed the experience and strongly believe Congress's contribution to our Institution is highly beneficial.

Finally I would like to welcome newly elected Congress members and my replacement as Chair to their roles and thank the outgoing Congress volunteers for all their support and contributions.

Rob Peeling
Congress Chair