



The Energy Institute

Nomination Category: Special Association Award: Advancing Education for Oil & Gas

Nomination Statement:

The Energy Institute is a professional membership body which provides professional status and CPD opportunities to everyone involved in any aspect of energy. It does this through its grades of professional membership, the accreditation of professional training and academic programmes worldwide and the provision of an educational and careers service that seeks to promote the industry to its future employees and develop an enthusiasm in the subject of energy amongst young people. The EI's oil and gas training programme continues to deliver training to a vast range of individuals and companies from over 50 countries.

The EI has a growing number of branches within the UK and beyond that hold regional events and meetings. The EI's central events programme continues to grow and includes International Petroleum week, the biggest event of its kind in Europe.

Innovation

In addition to the ongoing work carried out, the Energy Institute always strives to deliver new and innovative activities on behalf of its members. In 2008 the following areas of work were developed:

- A series of 'essential competencies' workshops were delivered for student and graduate members. Topics included professional development, networking and management skills. Workshops were free to relevant members of the EI.
- A series of workshops for teachers was completed in 2008. These workshops encouraged teachers to discuss energy issues in the curriculum and inform their students of careers in energy. To follow up this workshop new materials for teachers have been developed and will be available to download. The EI is also developing careers information to give 14-18 year olds information about working in energy.
- The EI has developed a new CPD policy to focus the work the institute will deliver in this area. The policy includes the monitoring, promotion, recording, signposting and provision of support and guidance on CPD.

Effectiveness

- The teachers workshop received very good feedback from participants and the further materials developed from these will ensure that teachers that could not attend a workshop are able to learn from these.
- The graduate workshops were all over subscribed and are being repeated again in 2009.
- The online PDS system has been very successful smashing the target of intended users. As a result the pilot phase has been extended and plans for the next stage of development and improvements are underway.

Benefits

The EI strives to deliver activities for the benefit of its members and beyond:

- Universities and Training providers – accreditation of these institutions ensures an ongoing relationship with them and their students. The EI is able to act as a quality control through the accreditation of programmes and is also able to provide advice and guidance to those seeking energy education and training. The Learning affiliate category of EI membership ensures organisations can take advantage of the benefits of EI membership at an affordable rate.
- Teachers – The workshops for teachers provided delegates with a CPD opportunity and enhanced their knowledge of energy and their confidence in teaching the subject. There is a section on the Energyzone website that contains materials for teachers to enhance their teaching on energy.



- Young People – The EI provides information about energy in general as well as information on careers for those interested in joining the sector. The ‘towards a career in energy’ section on Energyzone includes case studies of people in the industry, key employers and a list of accredited university courses.
- Junior energy professionals – The EI helps to guide all student and graduate members towards the professional membership grades through guidance on CPD and membership workshops. EI events and training courses provide training and networking opportunities for people at the start of their career.
- Professional members of the EI – Once professional membership have been achieved the EI will support members with their ongoing CPD encouraging them to become involved with the institute and contribute to EI activities. This may include speaking at an event, joining a branch committee or writing an article. The EI also has a variety of professional and technical committees run by volunteers that are able to make a significant contribution to the sector.

Challenges

The ongoing and new activities have ensured a number of challenges:

- It proved difficult to recruit teachers for the workshops due to the difficulties of contacting teachers and them being able to take time away from school. To overcome this we opened the workshops up to people in industry or local government that had an interest in education and worked with school children. Teachers that could not attend the workshops will also be able to download materials.
- A new strand of training is being developed in 2009 from the EI's technical programme. This new initiative will no doubt have many challenges, however, the project managers are working closely with staff that work on the existing training strands to learn from these successful programmes.