



Driving Growth and Change: ACEZ's 2024 Journey

Introduction

The Association of Consulting Engineers of Zambia (ACEZ) continues to promote the interests of its members who provide services as competent and trusted advisers to the general public on engineering matters, and design and supervise engineering construction works of varying complexities. Over the past year, 2024, ACEZ has undertaken numerous activities that reflect our commitment to professional development, quality assurance, and community impact.

Key Achievements

During this period, the Association achieved several notable milestones:

1. **Training Courses:** Introduced 3 New Training courses and held a workshop in Public Private Partnerships in response to prevailing industry needs.
 2. **Community Outreach:** Collaborated with non-profit organisations and members to promote STEM careers to young learners.
 3. **Strategic Partnerships:** Collaborated with government organizations /entities an to enhance our influence in the energy, water and road sectors.
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Activities Overview

Training Programs

Our educational initiatives focused on equipping members and the general public with skills and knowledge to excel in the engineering profession. Key activities included:

- Introduction of new training courses: *"Measurement and Estimation of Construction Works, Principles of Structural Engineering Design and Assessing Delays and Quantum in Construction Claims."*
- Facilitating a Workshop in *"Understanding Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) and their Application in Financing Public Infrastructure Projects"* to introduce PPP as an alternative financing model.

- Introduced Workshops and Seminars featuring industry leaders to discuss trends in the built environment, diversify business portfolios and identify business opportunities in the sector. These included the *“Business Workshop for Built Environment Professionals”* and the *“Consulting Engineering Business Seminar for Future Leaders.”*

Community Outreach

In line with our commitment to social responsibility, we collaborated with the Girl Guides Association of Zambia in the following activities:

- Launch of the STEM Girls Campaign.
- YESS GIRLS CAN DO STEM Fair, where ACEZ was part of the judging panel.

Advocacy Efforts

Advocacy remained a cornerstone of our activities, as we worked to:

- Liaise with government institutions to discuss ways to dismantle the local debt owed to consultants for business continuity.
- Engage with the Road Development Agency, Ministry of Infrastructure Housing and Urban Development, Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation and Zambia Electricity Supply Corporation Limited (ZESCO) to promote the participation of our members in projects in the water, energy and road sectors.

Challenges Faced

While we celebrated many successes, we encountered challenges, including:

- **Energy Crisis:** During this period, the country experienced power supply shortages which affected business operations of member firms.
- **Economic pressures:** Due to the reduced activity because of the energy crisis, businesses faced economic hurdles by having to slow down operations and downsize.

We tackled these challenges by engaging key stakeholders in the various sectors to offer solutions and spearhead collaborative efforts to continuously resolve emerging sectoral issues. Additionally, we introduced a webinar on *“Hybrid/ Off-Grid Solar Solutions”* to offer renewable energy solutions at household level.

Member Engagement

This year, member participation increased significantly due to targeted initiatives, such as:

- Publication of regular newsletters by the Future Leaders group to keep members informed. Additionally, the Association is launching its first magazine, “Engineer’s Perspective” to share professional insights as a sounding voice in the industry.
 - Increased activity on our social media platforms on LinkedIn and Facebook in the form of announcements and information sharing on industry events.
 - Interactive events like the “Business Workshop for Built Environment Professionals” and the “Consulting Engineering Business Seminar for Future Leaders” which fostered career development, community and collaboration.
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Future Plans

Looking ahead, we aim to expand our impact through:

1. **Upcoming Events:** Launch of the ACEZ Strategic Plan 2025-2029, Election of Council Members in 2025, and hosting networking events and workshops for Future Leaders as well as Members
2. **Capacity Building:** 2025 Training Courses and webinars
3. **Broader Advocacy:** Continued engagement of stakeholders in various sectors to create business opportunities and form strategic partnerships for combined efforts.