IET-UK and Chartered Engineers Pacific (CEP) have jointly organized a One-Day Seminar on "Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) awareness among young engineers and engineering students" on September 22, 2018 at Langara College, Vancouver. The seminar was coordinated by Dr. Suresh Vishwakarma, IET Representative for Western Canada and elected CCA member and supported by Zeeshan Khan, MIET and CEP committee member. Matthew Walton-Knight, Chairman of Local CEP Network was the Emcee of event who welcomed the attendees and gave vote of thanks also.

The intent of CSR is to ensure that companies conduct their business in a way that considers their social, economic and environmental impact, and consideration of human rights. The seminar aimed to inspire young engineers on businesses’ responsibility to act ethically and consider their impacts on the community at large. It was well received by all attendees. Since it was the first IET event in Vancouver, no registration fee was charged. The entire expenses were sponsored by the funding from IET-UK and Local CEP network. Sponsorships were received from SBI Canada Bank and SukhiBath Motors. Langara College, Vancouver was kind enough to allow using their seminar room and parking facilities for free.

The seminar targeted for 40 participants and 100% registrations were received. Only 30 registrants attended the seminar. Those who could not attend were either sick or committed to urgencies. Food and beverages were provided during the short breaks in morning and afternoon sessions. A break-out lunch was provided between two main sessions. Participants received registration bags containing IET’s brochures, leaflet, and a copy of E&T magazine. Promotional items supplied by IET, Schneider Electric, SBI Canada, SukhiBath Motors, and ZE Power were distributed. Door prize, best question prize, and prizes for group activities were also included.
There were four presentations in the morning session by John W. McArthur (Senior Fellow with Brookings Institution and a Senior Advisor to the UN Foundation), Christie Stephenson (Executive Director of Peter P. Dhillon Centre for Business Ethics at UBC Sauder School of Business), Sean Farragher (Consultant Sales Power Solutions Architect at Schneider Electric), and Safal Tripathi (Vice President – SBI Canada Bank). A workshop on CSR was conducted in the afternoon session by Ruchi Tyagi (Associate Professor & Head - Human Resources, University of Petroleum & Energy Studies, India).

After Matthew’s welcome speech, Suresh gave a short overview of IET and its activities. He explained IET’s mission and its presence across the globe. He also inspired the young engineers and engineering students to join IET. Welcome address and Inaugurator note were preceded by presentations and CSR workshop. Below are the brief descriptions of each session.

**John McArthur – “The Shifting Contours of Global Living Standards”**
John's presentation focused on economic, social and environmental trends at the national and international levels, as exemplified by United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A brief description of the shifting nature of the global economy provides context for understanding the 17 SDGs and some of Canada’s domestic and global priorities for achieving them. A short video was also screened during the presentation to highlight opportunities for young people to contribute to various goals. The presentation was highly informative and eye-opening, stimulating questions and discussions.

**Christie Stephenson - “Ethical Expectations of Canadian Business”**
Ethical expectations of Canadian business are increasing. There is pressure coming from a range of stakeholders. This might be regulators, customers, employees, impacted communities and the public. Stakeholders expect leadership on social
and environmental issues. Investors, specifically, are concerned about business risks that becomes investment risks. They want to see risk mitigated. Ethical investors see the opportunity to leverage financial capital to drive social and environmental improvement. Students were engaged in these topics. They were aware of many social justice issues raised. As well, many understood how these social and environmental issues created business risk. The speaker noted that good businesses increasingly have good corporate social responsibility practices. There were many in the audience who agreed business had an important role to play in addressing injustice but there were some who were skeptical and thought businesses only showed leadership when there was a business case and not that they were taking action simply to do the right thing. It was also suggested by a member of the audience that it could be harder to operate responsibly in practice and 'on the ground" compared to talking about these ideas in theory.

*Sean Farragher – “CSR at Schneider Electric”*

As the global specialist in energy management and automation, Schneider Electric creates connected technologies that reshape industries, transform cities, and enrich lives. The company with its presence globally aims to return back to the community through its various CSR initiatives including 6 years of engagement in 24h Tremblant, over 10 years of sponsorship building affordable housing and promoting homeownership - Habitat for Humanity, and 12 years of engagement in One Walk to conquer Cancer. The presentation included diverse CSR initiatives and activities such as Rural Electrification, Entrepreneurship, Education & Employment being undertaken by Schneider. Examples of their Strongest Oaks Project in Burkina Faso was shared. It was a well-prepared presentation highlighting how Schneider Electric is proactively engaged in CSR worldwide.
Safal Tripathi – “CSR in Banking Sector”
The presentation began with explaining – what is CSR, what is Sustainability, what is Business Sustainability, and why is CSR important to Business Organizations? In the latter part, CSR in Banking sector with reference to Canadian banks was explained in detail. Examples of different CSR initiatives of State Bank of Canada were also mentioned. The presentation gave an interesting take on CSR from the bank’s perspective, their behavior and policies, and how their indirect, often unnoticed, contribution stands to positively influence the marketplace. The presentation was highly engaging and informative to the young professionals.

Ruchi Tyagi – “Workshop on CSR Awareness”
An important aspect of successful CSR implementation is the capacity of the corporation's executives to connect their interventions and programs with the company’s business management model with this background the Workshop was designed. The areas covered were - 80:20 Rule to identify material issues on which a company can focus its CSR Programs; Assessing the impact of the CSR program based on three principles- The Economic Impact of the CSR actions on the Company; the Social Impact on the community and the Environmental Impact of the operations carried out by the Company; and engaging employees in CSR programs. The workshop included a PPT presentation and three group activities. Due to the last-minute travel challenges, Ruchi had to conduct her workshop through video conferencing. Despite being an online workshop, it was still interactive with regular questions and answers from both ends.

The seminar went off very well. Primarily, because of lively questions-answers sessions during presentation and workshop. On behalf of Chartered Engineers Pacific local network, Suresh Vishwakarma expresses sincere thanks and appreciations to IET for providing funding and all necessary support for organizing a successful event. Thanks to the generous sponsors and volunteers especially Saurabh, Shefali, Shailja, Zeeshan, and Prafulla for their selfless efforts to make seminar success.