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Members' conference attracts record audience

The association's Annual Members' Meeting and conference took place at the Coombe Abbey Hotel in Warwickshire on the 7th of July. Delivering his annual report, PASMA's managing director, Peter Bennett, began by saying that PASMA is the organisation that knows about towers and cares about the people who use them.



He went on to say that over the last year the association worked towards achieving a number of goals and objectives aimed at fulfilling its mission. "We have seen an increased use in our committees of virtual meeting rooms and a widespread uptake of our project and task management system. It is already bringing enormous benefits in efficiency and member inclusion.

We will shortly announce the appointment of a new technical officer to assist our technical director and take us a step closer to the establishment of our proposed test and research centre. We also continue to collaborate with and seek active engagement with other industry bodies to support our efforts, so taking advantage of their expertise in their respective fields to avoid duplication of effort and expense."

He concluded by saying that as with any growing organisation, from time to time, it was necessary to take a step back and review roles and responsibilities to ensure that everything was being done to meet the needs of members, and that this process was currently underway at PASMA. Finally he thanked the retiring chairman, Carl Evans, for his contribution to the work and role of the association and welcomed the incoming chairman Gillian Rutter, wishing her every success in her term of office.



Peter Bennett

Gillian Rutter takes over from Carl Evans

For the first time in its history, PASMA has a woman as its chairman of council. A member of PASMA's governing body for many years and the association's specialist Hire & Assembly committee since 2013, Gillian Rutter has been a life-long member of the association and was one of the first women to successfully complete PASMA's 'Towers for Users' training course, when just 17.

PASMA's new chairman runs Skyward Access Training based in Harold Wood, Essex. She is also a director of Hire Access, a Hirer/ Dealer and Hire & Assembly member of the association that operates across the UK and the Republic of Ireland.



Gillian Rutter.



Don Aers

Revisions to EN 1004

Conference delegates also heard from technical director, Don Aers. He explained that the task to revise EN 1004, the European standard for mobile access towers, had been reinstated last year when CEN TC53 - the European standards organisation technical committee for temporary works equipment - had taken the decision to continue with the project. He explained that TC53 had also taken the decision that towers under 2.5 metres should be included and that the standard for user instructions, EN 1298, should be considered for inclusion as part of EN 1004.

The group - of which Don Aers is convenor - completed the draft at the end of March, although its work is still not complete as it will be necessary to carry out both internal and external (public) enquiries after which comments need to be considered and addressed.

PASMA appoints ASEAN rep

Daniel Ng



The association has appointed Daniel Ng as its representative for the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) region. The appointment comes in response to growing interest throughout the region in the work and role of PASMA as a champion of safety and good practice in the work at height sector.

Ng brings 26 years of experience to the post, together with a proven, successful track record representing SGB across the region.

Commenting on the appointment Peter Bennett said: "Daniel is a well-known and respected figure in the industry. He joins us at a pivotal time as we develop PASMA's presence internationally and increasingly seek to improve height safety and standards globally."

Head of international development, Sarah Nunn, added: "We are delighted to have Daniel on board. His experience will be invaluable as new, local standards are introduced in Singapore over the coming months. PASMA will now be ideally placed to contribute towards, and add value to, these latest developments."



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