The Institution of Engineering and Technology

Paper Number
T(22)57

23 August 2022

PAPER CLASSIFICATION: OPEN

Board of Trustees

VOLUNTEERING VISION UPDATE

(Note by Lizzie Truett, Strategic Development Manager – Volunteers and Young Professionals. If you have any questions on this paper before the meeting, please contact Lizzie Truett on +44 (0)7725 207442 or by email lizzietruett@theiet.org)

1. Issue

To inform the Board of Trustees about recent changes and developments made to the Volunteering Vision, previously the Volunteer Engagement Strategy, that was first approved by it in June 2021.

2. Timing

Board of Trustees meeting, 5 September 2022.

3. For Note

The Board of Trustees is invited to note the update on the Volunteering Vision.

4. Background

4.1. As part of the IET Strategy 2030, volunteers have been identified as a key stakeholder and source of expertise. To ensure volunteers are supporting the strategy and overall aims of the IET, the decision to create a specific Volunteer Engagement Strategy was made.

4.2. During 2021, key stakeholders and volunteer groups were consulted as part of this to create a strategy that would work across the wide range of volunteer management areas and disciplines that exist within the IET.

4.3. The Volunteer Engagement Strategy was first widely presented at the virtual Volunteer Conference in October 2021 along with facilitated workshops afterwards to discuss the strategy.

4.4. Feedback from the Conference indicated that the Volunteer Engagement Strategy needed to be more two-way and also focus on what the volunteers themselves were getting out of volunteering, not just about how they were impacting the IET. The Volunteer Support Working Party and the staff Volunteer Management Forum reviewed this feedback and other external trends around volunteering motivations and put forward recommendations for how it could be evolved.

5. Our New Approach

5.1. To ensure volunteers' needs are at the heart of the Volunteer Engagement Strategy and generate a change in culture for how the IET works with volunteers, the recommendation was to change the tone of the key principles.

5.2. To avoid confusion with the IET Strategy 2030, and instead clarify how volunteering enables that strategy, it was agreed to change the name from Volunteer Engagement Strategy to Volunteering Vision to take us all on the journey to 2030 and beyond.

5.3. The key five principles of the Volunteering Vision are:

- Offer everyone flexible and inclusive volunteering opportunities to contribute to the evolving engineering and technology landscape.
- Provide the right environment to strengthen professional and personal skills, and grow networks.
- Enable everyone to recognise and celebrate their own, and others', contribution and impact.
- Keep enhancing the volunteering experience.
- Give the volunteering community the opportunity to understand how its work supports our shared mission to engineer a better world.

5.4. It is important to note it is a "Volunteering" vision not just "Volunteer" to encapsulate that this refers to volunteers, staff, support and resources as enablers to achieving our aspirations.

5.5. Under each principle, the aim is to deliver some key projects and changes which seek to embed this new culture and approach to volunteering for the IET. See Appendix A.

6. Risk

Volunteers underpin the delivery of the strategic aims and objectives for the IET and without a specific effort to engage with them, we could be at risk of not achieving these aims and objectives.

7. Resources

To deliver the Volunteering Vision effectively will require a collective effort across the whole of the IET. The Volunteer Support Unit will be leading this work.

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The Proposed Outputs of Each Principle of the Volunteer Vision

1. Offer everyone flexible and inclusive volunteering opportunities to contribute to the evolving engineering and technology landscape:

   - Demonstrate clear pathways to volunteering success.
   - Overcoming perceived or actual hurdles to volunteering.
   - Assessing our volunteering portfolio to meet changing needs.

   Tangible outputs: Creating a new 'identify' for volunteering with the IET in collaboration with our brand team to launch campaigns which raise awareness of the volunteering portfolio, and personal benefits to volunteering, and recruit new and diverse volunteers.

2. Provide the right environment to strengthen professional and personal skills, and grow networks:

   - Providing opportunities for learning and development in all roles and locations.
   - Support the volunteering community to conduct its roles responsibly, and safely.
   - Ensuring the volunteering community is made aware of all important information pertinent to its roles.

   Tangible outputs: Project to look at a Learning Management System to enable skills development and training for our volunteers as well as enabling them to complete mandatory policies.

3. Enable everyone to recognise and celebrate their own – and others' – contribution and impact:

   - Everyone is aware of existing recognition schemes and programs that celebrate volunteering excellence.
   - Representatives of the volunteering community within the IET Governance structure are visible and contactable.
   - The volunteering community has a platform to communicate with each other.
   - Individuals have the opportunity to be profiled and celebrated in a public setting.

   Tangible outputs: Creation of a private community just for volunteers on the EngX platform which will become the hub for all volunteers.

4. Keep enhancing the volunteering experience:

   - Continuously look for development or accreditation opportunities to improve our offering to the volunteering community
   - Continuing to work across IET departments to ensure consistency in approach
   - Global One Team Working is at the heart of everything we do

   Tangible outputs: A critical review of the purpose and usage of the Office 365 volunteer licenses. A campaign to increase the level of engagement with the annual Volunteer Satisfaction Survey.

5. Give the volunteering community the opportunity to understand how its work supports our mission to engineer a better world:

- The volunteering community is clear on how it contributes to the wider IET strategy and societal challenges.
- There are effective mechanisms for gathering feedback from the volunteering community.
- Volunteers are empowered to contribute to strategic work outside of the main Governance structures.

Tangible outputs: Re-writing every volunteer role description to explicitly state which part of the 2030 Strategy it impacts and what skills or experience can be gained by doing the role. See Appendix B for an overview of how we mapped volunteer roles against the IET Strategy 2030 in the July 2022 issue of *Member News*.

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Appendix B to T(22)57

Volunteer Roles Mapped Against IET Strategy 2030 from July 2022 Issue of Member News

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IET volunteering makes a positive impact!

Key 1: Mission

- Inspire
- Inform
- Influence

Key 2: Audience

- Practitioners
- Academia
- Industry
- Society

Key 3: Strategic themes

- Engineering excellence
- Skills, learning and networks
- Research solutions
- Thought leadership and policy
- Education

Key 4: Societal challenges

- Sustainability and Climate Change
- Digital Futures
- Healthy Lives
- People-centric Infrastructure
- Productive Manufacturing

How our volunteering roles are supporting our mission, our strategic themes and our societal challenges; the audience(s) they serve; and the benefits that volunteers can gain from getting involved.

Young Professional (YP)

You'll become a role model for the next generation of engineers and technicians (aged 18-35) and inspire them to get the most out of their links with the IET.

YP Ambassador

You'll use your various networks to spread the word about the IET to other YPs. Meeting, connecting with and learning from other industry professionals (including those outside your area of expertise) will help to boost your confidence and enhance your communication, influencing and networking skills. It's also a great way to build your own global network and advance your career.

YP Committee Member

As part of a culturally diverse, global YP group, you'll help to make the IET more relevant and inclusive for the 18-35 age group. You'll influence and network with senior engineers and volunteers as well as Executive-level IET decision makers. You'll also have opportunities to enhance your teamwork, project management, communication, leadership and influencing skills.

Communities

Our Local and Technical Networks put on a range of activities that shape inspiring content; highlight the latest news and advances in engineering and technology; and influence key audiences. Helping to organise and run these activities will open a world of development opportunities for you: teamwork, time management, budgeting, event planning, problem-solving skills, leadership, communication, organising, adaptability, patience, participating in meetings and presenting.

Local Network Volunteer

You'll share ideas and expertise with engineers in your local area, keep abreast of the latest developments and enhance your skill set.

Technical Network Volunteer

You'll share ideas and expertise with engineers in your technical field, keep abreast of the latest developments and enhance your skill set.

Policy and Insight

Panel Member

Using your technical expertise and political insights you can help the IET advise and influence key areas of UK Government policy. You'll be at the forefront of developing strong and robust evidence-based policy positions across our strategic areas and will help disseminate these to relevant stakeholders in Government, Parliament and beyond.

You'll represent the IET in the media and use your role to influence the profession, government and society. You'll also have the opportunity to expand your professional network with senior engineers across different sectors from industry and academia.

Fellowship

Fellow Assessor

As well as assessing applications for Fellowship, you'll use your role to influence the profession, government and society, helping to push through changes in policy or strategy that will improve the engineering and technology profession.

Code and Guidance Publishing

Technical Author Working Group Member

Technical Committee Member and Reviewer

You'll help to write technical information, guides and codes of practice that make sure practitioners can do their job safely and efficiently; support upskilling and reskilling; accelerate innovation; and solve industry challenges. There will be many chances for you to hone a variety of skills, including authoring, collaboration, networking, problem-solving skills, time management, leadership and communication.

Accreditation

Apprenticeship Mapping Team Member

Scheme Accreditation Team Member

You'll use your knowledge and experience to advise on the content of apprenticeship schemes, make sure they are aligned to the UK-SPEC and promote ethical behaviour and practices. As well as improving your communication and teamwork skills, you'll strengthen your understanding of apprenticeship schemes and qualifications.

Academic Accreditor

Academic Accreditation Committee Member

You'll help us build our credibility as a key informer and influencer of engineering curriculums and a global leader for academic accreditation. As well as enabling us to embrace a more diverse set of subject areas, you'll share and collect good practice for educators. Your teamwork, time management, leadership, decision making and negotiation skills will all be put to the test!

Professional Development (PD)

PD Mentor

CPD Advisor

As a role model for professionalism, excellence and Professional Registration you'll inspire, attract and develop the next generation of engineers and technicians and enhance public trust in our profession. These roles will allow you to grow your communication and relationship-management skills, your Professional Registration skills and knowledge, and your professional network.

Education

Education Officer

Education Ambassador

Your passion and enthusiasm for your profession will inspire the next generation of engineers, their teachers and guardians about the value of studying STEM subjects and the many opportunities that an engineering career can offer. You'll enhance a wide range of skills, including teamwork, communication, presenting, creativity, flexibility, networking, time management, organisation and leadership. There are plenty of routes for progression too.

Professional Registration

We provide relevant training for our Professional Registration roles. They all provide opportunities for you to learn new skills and enhance existing ones, like teamwork and communication, while developing a network of professionals from different sectors and communities.

Professional Registration Advisor

International Professional Registration Advisor

Registration Assessor

Professional Review Interviewer

You'll support fellow engineering and technology professionals through their application for Professional Registration. Your volunteering will also count as one of your own CPD activities, of course.

For more information, visit: **theiet.org/volunteer**
or contact our Volunteer Support Unit on **volunteer@theiet.org**

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