

CIHT Dubai Evening Seminar (Online)

Michelle Wood &
Andrew Jenkins

Acquiring Professional Development and Chartered
Qualification in Transport Planning



About the Speakers

Michelle Wood is a Fellow of CIHT, Chartered TPP, an experienced Reviewer and Mentor. As well as being a member of the CIHT Dubai committee, she is also the Professional Development Officer of CIHT London Region and member of CIHT HK. Michelle is a practising transport planner and currently the Head of Technical Development for PTRC Education and Research Services.



Andrew Jenkins is a Fellow of CIHT, newly Chartered TPP and has 25 years' experience in the planning, design and operation of transport systems in the UAE, UK and internationally. He has developed his knowledge through collaboration with transport operators, developers, architects and master planners. Andrew has supported the CIHT through involvement in London, the South West of England and now in the UAE where he is Membership and Development officer for CIHT Dubai.

Presentation

The Transport Planning Professional (TPP) qualification was developed by the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation (CIHT) and the Transport Planning Society (TPS). It enhances the standing of transport planning as a career and acknowledges transport planners as respected professionals, whilst encouraging the development of the skills needed to tackle the major challenges facing the transport sector. Once candidates have successfully completed the TPP assessment they can apply for Chartered status with the CIHT (CTPP).

Michelle provided an overview of what is required to becoming a CTPP, and what preparation is necessary. This was an opportunity to engage in an interactive discussion with Michelle, other TPPs, mentors, and reviewers. Michelle also provided an overview of the other professional qualifications awarded by CIHT such as in CEng, IEng, EngTech and membership of SoRSA.

The speakers explained routes to TPP, as well as the Professional Development Framework and CPD schemes run by CIHT. The focus for the seminar was on the TPP qualification, its relevance in the Gulf Region, understanding what is required in terms of developing skills and experience against competencies, and the benefits for individuals and organisations.

Challenges and stumbling blocks were also addressed such as awareness of the requirements of TPP assessment; whether there are sufficient numbers of TPP qualified people in the region who can act as mentors and trainers; and the perceived focus of TPP competencies on UK experience and criteria.

CIHT Dubai is keen, in the fullness of time, to support and mentor people through TPP, and to explain and bring the benefits to individuals and employers in the Region. It is also engaged with CIHT Britannia Walk to explain the particular challenges in the region and how a culture of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) can be fostered in the UAE and elsewhere.



The Seminar considered what success will look like and postulated that it will be when people and organisations in the Region see CPD and professional qualifications such as TPP as part of a continuing programme of development and reputation, with real benefits to them in terms of personal recognition, career advancement and winning work.

Andrew Jenkins (CIHT Dubai) provided an update on what the local branch is doing at this stage of its early development and how it is working with CIHT Britannia Walk to support applicants locally through the development of a set of qualified and willing volunteers in region.

Michelle and Andrew answered the questions below and invited people to get in touch and find out more.

Questions and Answers	
1. Will the TPP competencies belocalised for the UAE?	The competencies are generic and reflect the nature of transport planning as a profession – i.e. the skills and experiences will be very similar in the UAE as anywhere else in the world. However, as the qualification develops and as there are more reviewers based in the UAE, there may be specific UAE experiences that will be assessed.
2. Will the TPP Entry Reviews betailored to GCC policies and practices?	See answer above
3. Do UK Masters degrees need to be accredited with the UK Engineering Council?	No, TPP is not run by the Engineering Council.
4. The TPP Senior Route: Is that 15 years’ experience and in a senior management role or 15 years of transport experience in a senior role?	TPP senior route tests the full range of technical and managerial experience that one would expect to have developed over a 15-year period at a senior level. Inevitably after a period of 15 years people will expect to manage projects and initiatives but should retain a technical awareness. Although the application process is “fast-tracked,” Senior Route applicants do have to demonstrate a higher level of proficiency than Standard Route candidates. Therefore, they need wide ranging technical, managerial, and commercial experience gained over a number of years - typically 15 years+.
5. Can the professional reviews interviews be in the UAE?	It is likely that interviews will not be possible in the UAE until a cohort of reviewers has been built up. In the medium-term, it is hoped that interviews will be held in UAE and GCC, and CIHT Dubai is aiming to make this happen.
6. How will interview questions be tailored for UAE / GCC policies / practices rather than UK?	The TPP Professional Standards Committee has almost completed a review of the TPP units. One of the main aims of the review is to make the qualification accessible to transport planners outside the UK. Reviewers locally will have knowledge and experience of transport planning in UAE. In addition, see answer in 1 above.
7. How have CIHT Dubai, been involving Government Department in accepting this qualification?	As part of the developing profile of CIHT in UAE we will engage with government departments to raise profile of the institution and TPP.
8. Is CTPP recognized by the Engineering Council?	TPP is based on transport planning competencies. It is at the same professional level as CEng but does not come under the remit of the Engineering Council. It is developed and awarded by CIHT and TPS.
9. How do I go about finding a mentor?	Please contact Michelle Wood or Andrew Jenkins via ciht.dubaigroup@gmail.com .
10. Is it a must to get CEng to avail TPP?	No, you don't need to be CEng to do TPP.

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