Welcome to the third Newsletter for the Conference, which will take place now over two days on 17 & 18 March 2021.

Overall, progress work on site is going well and regular updates and pictures can be found on The Common Room social media platforms. Building work is being done in accordance with the government’s latest Site Operating Procedures and all sub-contractors have returned. The replacement of the stained-glass windows in the Wood Memorial Hall is now complete and work will follow on the external window refurbishment. Gas and electricity supply will complete this month. Some pictures of the work in progress are included overleaf.

The schedule of work predicts completion early in 2021, leaving sufficient time for fit out to be completed for the opening date in early March.

Nevertheless, any future COVID-19 lockdown could adversely affect the conference dates and the event may have to be postponed again.

Future announcements will be made should this transpire.

An outline programme has been developed. Authors are aware of the postponement from the original date and have been asked to submit a full written version of their paper for inclusion in the conference proceedings volume (subject to peer review), which will be issued to everyone attending the conference. It is an opportunity to promote their work to a wider audience as well as giving independently verifiable CPD experience. Final manuscripts should be submitted to the conference organisers no later than 31 October 2020 in order to facilitate peer review and printing of the conference proceedings.
Registration

Registration fees are £275 and as NEIMME, who have underwritten the event, is a registered charity, VAT is not applicable. For those wishing to register for one day only, the fee will be reduced. The registration fee includes admission to all conference sessions and refreshment breaks, buffet lunches on 17th & 18th March, buffet supper and entertainment on 17th March, and a conference pack including abstracts of the papers presented.

All papers will be refereed and registrants will receive a complimentary copy of the volume containing those papers accepted.

Students may register for a reduced cost if there is room available after January 2021. There will be ample opportunity for business exhibitions and sponsorship of the conference, which are treated as a donation.

Organisations that offer donations to the Conference will receive one free delegate place for each £500 of donation. All donations are free from any VAT payment.

The conference booking arrangements are being finalised and should be available soon. Full details of registration fees and a booking form will be published on MTD website: (https://www.iom3.org/mining-technology-division). The booking form will also list the methods available for payment of fees, sponsorship, and exhibition costs.

The organisers believe that the Conference represents great value for money and, in addition, a great opportunity for delegates to add to their CPD record.

Social Events

Apart from the conference buffet evening, no social events are planned. The award-winning Ashington Colliery Brass Band have been booked for the buffet evening and will play a selection from “The Shows”.

Technical Visits

The conference fieldtrip itinerary is in its infancy but pre- and post-conference trips may be included if demand can be ascertained. Charges for participating in a fieldtrip will only be to offset the cost of any transport required.

Accommodation

There is ample accommodation in all price ranges close to Neville Hall. Registrants are asked to contact the organisers if they need advice. Student accommodation may also be available at the University.

Transport

Neville Hall is immediately adjacent to Newcastle Central rail and Metro stations.

Newcastle International Airport is within 20 minutes of the Conference Centre.

Parking is difficult. Registrants are asked to contact the organisers if they need advice.

Acknowledgements

The MTD Board wish to record their appreciation to NEIMME, The Common Room team and IOM3 Conferences team for their support.

The organising committee acknowledges the advice and guidance given by the MTD Board.

Any questions about the Conference, please contact David Seath (MTD-Conferences@iom3materialscycle.org)

For Details of the Venue - Please refer to Website for Common Room of Great North (www.thecommonroom.org.uk)