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networking
global know-how

My CIGRE Journey (to date)

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CIGRE Association - It all began in 1999..

16 years of association with CIGRE (to date) and building....

- In 1999, I started as a member of CIGRE AP B5 (Protection and Substation Automation)
- In 2004/05, I joined CIGRE AP A3 (High Voltage Equipment) and since 2008, I have been the convenor of AP A3 and an Australian representative on SC A3
- I am a member of A3 Advisory Group, A3 Tutorial Group and am one of the authors for the “A3 Green Book”
- I have been a special reporter at CIGRE Paris Session and other CIGRE Colloquium/ Conferences
- I have contributed (as presenter/ participant/ as a member of coordination group) for numerous CIGRE events nationally and internationally
- I have been a corresponding member on two working groups (one each with B5 and A3)
- Since 2011, I am the convenor for WG A3.29 : Detection and Mitigation of Aging High Voltage Equipment – brochure planned to be delivered in 2016



CIGRE A3 has grown during my time..

CIGRE A3 has seen key advances over past 8-10 years

- Expansion of scope from traditional switching technologies to other high voltage equipment (instrument transformers, surge arrestors, capacitors)
- Work on UHV (>800kV)
- Inclusion of DC switching and other DC high voltage equipment
- Shift towards asset management of high voltage equipment rather than just technology aspects – e.g. reliability survey, management of ageing high voltage equipment
- Improving its focus on medium voltage high voltage equipment





CIGRE AP A3....

A closely knit group delivering exceptional value to its members

- Has active Australian and New Zealand membership – mix of utility, manufacturers and consultants
- Every year we formally share our experiences of past years (technology and management policies, technological advances, technological and asset management challenges, major failure incidents)
- Encouraging young engineers through “minutes taker at annual meeting” and more recently introduced the concept of “shadow members”
- Open half day for host organisation for annual meeting
- We have initiated the concept of preferential subjects at national level to get more interest in things that matter most to our local industry



My experience...

The Good...

- Championship at the organisation level is very crucial
 - Works very well with support from your organisation and your work colleagues – as CIGRE work should relate to reality on the ground
 - Organisational leaders need to believe in CIGRE **and** be representatives themselves at CIGRE – this gives them a unique “steering” power...
- Picking topics of local interest and pursuing them gets the best support
- ANZ has a unique positioning, the skills and talent, including industry expertise on some topics is very high – and of key international significance
- Introduction of collaborative tools is excellent !!
- Recent efforts on branding are encouraging (and go beyond the feedback I have from other national committees) !!



My experience...

The Challenges...

- A lot of work at CIGRE AP A3 internationally is not entirely relevant to ANZ..
- Work at CIGRE is seen as a “cost” and an “overhead” and with growing financial constraints - active representation is diminishing/ likely to diminish (including effects of brain drain)..
- University representation is diminishing... almost nil for AP A3
- Representation of utility/ manufacturing “active leadership” team is reducing
- Association with technical regulators is a gap that should be addressed sooner
- The panel members don’t have the bandwidth to spread the brand – they are loaded with technical matter and don’t have the time/ expertise to deal with organisation level communication
- For many panel members association is limited to the time they are on the panel/ as a convenor
- In my experience, our membership organisations do not “actively” approach us to provide advise/ undertake key research on topics of our scope





CIGRE Australia is leading the way....

Does any other National Committee come any closer ?

- We are leading the way we deal with CIGRE Nationally...
- We are leading the way we represent at CIGRE SC Internationally
- We are leading the way we interact (confluence, branding...)
- We have our own challenges (funding, comparative size of network).....
- We need to find a way to continue to find ways to both sustain and enhance our positioning at CIGRE Internationally....



Some Observations & Recommendations

We can continue to enhance CIGRE Australia's standing...

- Work with local industry partners more actively by being seen as an “organisation to go to” for technical matters related to electricity industry...
 - Make the leaders of key organisations integral to our operations...
 - We need to be seen as a part of them rather than a service provider
 - Look at developing an executive management level and CIGRE technical work level champion at each key member organisation
- Recognise the synergies between some CIGRE Panels and collaborate between these panels to create national/ Australasian events that can be sustained (leverage on SEAPAC experience, emerging Techcon) – in essence create a recurring calendar of events with a deeper value add....
- Develop ways to ensure that the active members on our panels see a long standing association with CIGRE – not merely as AP Convenors but as industry experts
- Look at alternative options to see a longer standing at some of the key (with deeper local interest) CIGRE SC's and lead the way...
- Have an active curriculum of topics (e.g. list of tutorials that we can provide – tailored to the organisational needs) that we can impart to the local industry on their door steps as opposed to conferences that entail travel costs – this will enable member organisations to engage, harness value





My association with CIGRE will continue...

The journey has a long way to go...

- My time at CIGRE has been the same as the time with my wife – both in terms of number of years of association and the bonding....
- Range of topics for further work are emanating from the working group that I convene and these are highly relevant to the local industry in current financially constrained economically regulated industry (managing ageing high voltage equipment will continue to remain a challenge !). I also continue to be the author of a chapter in A3 Green Book.
- I hope to continue to deliver my support to AP A3 and CIGRE ANC in general



AP A3 will continue to deliver...

We have very committed panel members

- Wayne Pepper, Senior Substation Engineer with Ausgrid takes from me as convenor for Australian Panel
- I have no doubt that the panel will continue to deliver and add value to local industry and international CIGRE priorities

