

January 2016  **Words from the Secretary General**

Dear Readers,

On behalf of the Central Office of CIGRE in Paris (France), I wish a happy New Year, good health and personal success, to you and to those who are dear to you.

I would like, through this newsletter, to give a brief reminder of the achievements of CIGRE in 2015:

- At the end of 2015, there were 1170 student members, which is a good result for this new category of CIGRE members created in 2014;
- All National Committees are now using the same online database to manage their membership, and facilitate the payment of fees;
- The platform of collaborative tools for Study Committees and Working Groups has been created, and the rollout of the collaborative spaces has started at the end of 2015, with the objective of a full completion by the end of 2016;
- The new journal 'CIGRE Science and Engineering', launched in February 2015, was well received, and the three planned releases have been timely published;
- Free access for non-members to most CIGRE publications, three years after their publication, has been implemented at the beginning of the year;
- The preparation of the Session has been carried out with new online tools for the collection of synopses provided by National Committees, and their review and selection by the Study Committee Chairs and Special Reporters;
- The process of the renewal of Study Committee members, which takes place every second year, is now supported by a new online application allowing uploaded National Committees' proposals to be reviewed and selected by the Study Committee Chairs in a very efficient way.

The Administrative Council has made new important decisions:

- Change of the Statutes of the Association in order to allow voting by correspondence when a General Assembly of the members is called. This proposal was unanimously approved by an Extraordinary General Assembly called upon on 14th December 2015;
- Efforts are expected from National Committees to propose more Study Committee and Working Group members with expertise and experience in the field of distribution, and to propose topics on distribution to be considered by the Technical Committee;
- Information on national power systems should be available on the CIGRE website. At the end of 2015, 33 National Committees have provided this information now posted on the CIGRE homepage;
- A Task Force was created to facilitate the sharing of good practices between the National Committees, and their interactions with the Central Office.

There have been meetings to create new National Committees in Africa where so many people have no access to electricity. This topic was addressed in Cape Town during the joint CIGRE-IEC symposium in October, and during the COMELEC conference in Rabat in December. CIGRE should have new National

Committees from this part of the world in 2016.

In addition, the CIGRE information system, including the website, will be improved through three distinct projects:

- The technical document library “e-cigre”, built in 2004, will be modernized in 2016 with new features, such as users’ accounts and history, improved search engine, hosting of document collections of other associations, advanced statistics, and online payment solutions;
- A new online Working Group creation management tool will be implemented to facilitate the review and decision process, and the information to National Committees;
- In order to implement the decision to allow the General Assembly of the members to vote by correspondence, an electronic voting system will be designed and applied for the approval of the CIGRE 2015 accounts in June 2016.

This year, the success of the Paris Session will be the main objective of the Technical Committee and the Central Office, with some changes from the previous Session in 2014:

- Registration to the Session through the Central Office in Paris (when National Committees do not process it) will be online only;
- Poster sessions have been reorganized to give the opportunity to all the authors of Session papers to present their works during a half day for each Study Committee;
- Tutorials have been planned for the first time in a Paris Session, and will take place on the Monday afternoon;
- The Electrical Power Engineering Education (EPEE) panel that was initiated in 2000, has been removed from the Session program.

If you are not a CIGRE member, I invite you to apply to become a CIGRE member on our website by clicking [here](#).

If you are a CIGRE member, do not forget to renew your membership before 31st May 2016, so that there will be no interruption to your membership.

- to receive ELECTRA, the journal of the Association, published in 6 issues per year, on paper or on line;
- to have the capacity to download free of charge any document from “e-cigre”, the on line technical library;
- to attend CIGRE events and events supported by CIGRE, with reduced registration fees;
- to receive this newsletter every two months, to receive information on coming events of interest, on newly published Technical Brochures and on new Working Groups.

With my best regards.

Philippe ADAM

Secretary General