

20 April 2020

## PARIS Session Update

Dear Member

I trust that this finds you and your family in good health in these difficult times.

I would like to offer you a brief update on CIGRE Australia activities in the context of the COVID-19 environment.

Firstly and foremost, CIGRE Australia remains open for business, operating normally and contactable through the usual emails and phone numbers. We are further investigating how we can enhance the delivery of technical information to members through increasing our webinar series offerings and more directed technical bulletins.

Our technical panels continue to operate and are using our KMS system for collaborative work and running virtual face to face panel meetings using the virtual networking options available to them.

We, along with other National Committees, have recently had input and discussions with the Paris Head office regarding the running of the scheduled Paris Session in August of this year and the other Symposia and Colloquia which CIGRE offer in the 'off' Paris Session years.

After much discussion and consideration of options, the decision has been taken by the Global Administrative Council to postpone the 2020 Paris Session to August 2021 on dates yet to be determined. The Paris Office media release is attached. However, so as to still recognise the enormous amount of work that has gone into preparing papers, workshops, meetings etc in anticipation of the Session being held this year, it has been decided to run a cut down Virtual Paris Session which will allow the recognition of presented papers and the 2020 CIGRE Awards, along with several workshops and meetings which can also be held online in a virtual environment. It is realised there are many challenges in this approach, however the global Technical Council believe that it is quite feasible and that CIGREANS are up to the challenge. We will keep you informed of how you may participate in this event.

Further, CIGRE will host the postponed Session in Paris in August of 2021 which will celebrate 100 years of CIGRE and will then revert to the traditional schedule in 2022 of holding the Sessions in even years. Further information on these events and the registration options will be forwarded and co-ordinated by our Australian Office once they are available. However, it is intended that there be minimal overlap between the 2020 and 2021 Sessions.

The timing of these Sessions and the likely ongoing impact of the COVID-19 lock downs and travel restrictions will also impact our signature events of SEAPAC (scheduled for March 21) and CIDER (scheduled for August 21). Both these events are under review and a path forward will be advised as soon as possible.

I encourage you to continue to utilise the online CIGRE resources which can be found in e-cigre and to continue to communicate with each other via our KMS or other online webinar and meeting packages such as WEbex/Goto/Zoom etc.



I wish you and your families all the best in these challenging times and encourage you to keep up to date by subscribing to our [CIGRE Australia twitter feed](#) and [LinkedIn sites](#), as well as checking our 'latest News' section on our website.

Best Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Trevor Armstrong'.

Trevor Armstrong  
Chairman  
CIGRE Australia



CIGRE announces a reorganisation of its 2020 signature Paris event into a digital e-session in 2020. Our planned in person August 2020 event offering *'the leading global event for sharing power system expertise'* is now scheduled for August 2021 as a special Centennial Session, with similar format as previous Sessions (e.g., plenaries, tutorials, poster sessions, technical exhibition).

CIGRE, formed in 1921, will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2021 with this Centennial celebration held at our Palais des Congrès venue in Paris, France in August.

For our e-session 2020, in late August and early September, CIGRE will offer critical content from the 2020 Session digitally as part of our CIGRE Academy. At a time when professionals need access to the latest thinking from our worldwide community, we consider this e-session vital. We will use our successful CIGRE Academy webinar technology to deliver this timely event in digital format.

From an historical perspective, our great family of CIGRE endured a Session in 1939 whereby *"heavy storm clouds already threatened the world."* [Quotes from 1946 Opening Session by Ernest Mercier, the President of CIGRE from 1933 to 1948]. *"They burst with the implacable fury of a world-wide cataclysm."*

For CIGRE's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, delegates called for a great Paris Session in 1946. President Mercier continued...

*"you have eloquently answered by easily beating all your previous records, for today there are 950 (delegates) registered, thus showing your impatience to resume those trusting and warm contacts of which you had established the tradition, like the members of a single great family dispersed all over the globe."*

With current storm clouds from pandemic beginning to clear in 2021, it is in this tradition we will mark our Centennial with a once in a lifetime event. We mourn those who have been impacted by this deadly Covid-19 pandemic, but CIGRE must endure as the foundation for power systems world-wide. We call on all of our community and the wider industry to join us for this seminal event.

On April 22nd, on this page we will be releasing more details on the 2020 e-session and the 2021 Centennial Session. Then ultimately, full programme details will follow on [session.cigre.org](http://session.cigre.org).

The detail on April 22nd will include an overview of content, options for those who have registered for 2020, and special offers for registering for both the 2020 and 2021 Sessions. We will also outline the plans and background thinking for future Sessions.

Our great family of CIGRE offers our good wishes for everyone in these troubled times.