

Guideline on acknowledgment of merits to AEC

Context

The AEC owes its prestige and success to the dedicated cooperation of many committed individuals who have decided to devote a considerable amount of their energy and time to volunteer for the benefit of AEC. The AEC is what it is because of the commitment of its members.

After significant consideration, it was decided that it is not possible to fully recognise and address this level of commitment in a way that equals to the service provided. In the past, the AEC has strived to do so by awarding honorary titles. This form of acknowledgment and appreciation has been increasingly challenged by our members in recent years. For some, awarding honorary titles appear to be an outdated ritual. Others felt that honorary titles could only be awarded to a few, and therefore it is not an appropriate mean to pay tribute to the achievements of many people in different and individual ways.

The topic has been a subject of discussion within the AEC for quite some time. As a result, in January 2018, the AEC Executive Committee recommended to look out for new ways of acknowledging membership commitment to replace the current AEC honorary policy.

The AEC Council discussed this recommendation at its regular meeting on 8 March 2018 and finally decided to discontinue the use of honorary titles. At the same time, the Council has commissioned the AEC Office to draft a guideline specifying how to acknowledge the commitments towards AEC activities when the awarding of honorary titles is coming to an end and whom to address specifically for this kind of acknowledgement.

Proposal for key points of such a guideline:

1. Whom to address

- a) former Presidents
- b) former Council members
- c) former CEOs
- d) former permanent AEC office staff members
- e) former working group chairs
- f) AEC activists, as working group members (to decide case by case)

2. How to acknowledge merits

Each person to be acknowledged for his or her dedicated contribution to AEC's welfare will receive an individual letter listing and appreciating the lifetime achievements. This letter will be handed out during an AEC event together with a symbolic gift.

If the person is unable to attend an AEC event, the letters from the previous year will be sent along with Christmas greetings.

Additional grants:

- a) AEC invites former Presidents to come to events, waiving their event fee. This applies with no time limit.
- a) and b) AEC thanks former Council members and Presidents by giving them the adjective 'emeritus'; a respective list with 'AEC emeriti' will be displayed on the website.
- a) to f) Appreciation in the newsletter.