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As an institution we have our Articles of Association, we have our Five-year Strategy and we have an Implementation Plan. What more could we possibly need?

When I wrote my inaugural address I used a theme of 'Inform, Discuss, Develop'. This phrase is intended as a user-friendly shorthand for the key objectives of the Institution that helps to set everything else in context. We aim to **inform** ourselves and others of the latest knowledge and experience in our field, to **discuss** and better understand what we are sharing and to **develop** best practices for the industry — as well as enhancing our own professional development as a result.

This month's IRSE NEWS seems an excellent example of the many things that, collectively we are already doing to **inform** ourselves of the latest work in safety, train control, telecoms and systems engineering. For example, the paper on the retrospective application of EN50128 addresses very real issues with the re-use of legacy software in systems certified to the latest standards. An immense amount of investment in railway upgrades is associated with delivering increased capacity so the paper reporting the work being done to **develop** mathematical modelling tools and their formal verification is particularly relevant.

There are also reports on the many other activities of the Institution, where we meet, learn, share and **discuss** our knowledge for our mutual benefit, and for the benefit of the industry and society as a whole.

Of course, if you only read IRSE NEWS you are only being informed, and even then only informed about a subset of all that is happening across our Institution. To get the full benefit you need to engage with your fellow railway professionals to discuss, share and add what you know to our industry's body of knowledge. In the words of Science Educator (and Mechanical Engineer) Bill Nye — "Everyone you will ever meet knows something you don't".

That seems another good reason to get out there and get personally involved with your local IRSE section meetings and other IRSE activities, so you too can Inform, Discuss, and Develop.

Charles Page, President IRSE



Front Cover: View from Nagoya station in Japan, the largest station in the world as measured by floor area Photo Francis How.

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