

OPINION

YOUR INSTITUTE

Alan is a very well known figure in global logistics and during his period as President of CILT UK he received an OBE in 2006. 'Nothing happens without the help of other people, and really I accepted it on behalf of our profession and the work being done by this Institute and other organisations.'



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Alan Waller becomes International President of CILT

■ From local organisations with international presence to an International Organisation with Global Relevance.

A well known figure in the UK and worldwide, Professor Alan Waller OBE FCILT has become International President of the Chartered Institute of Logistics & Transport. He tells David Jinks about the sad reason for his early ascendancy to the post, and the significant plans our Institute has for global growth.

Professor Alan Waller OBE FCILT is the new International President of The Chartered Institute of Logistics & Transport. Though International President elect only since last May, Alan has taken over the role earlier than planned due to the sad death of former International President Len Harper FCILT, of CILT Australia.

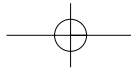
As UK members know, Alan is no stranger to holding office within CILT, as he has been both Chairman and President of CILT UK – as well as an International Vice President of CILT for five years. You can read a profile on Alan Waller in our June 2008 edition, presciently introduced as 'not a real goodbye, just au revoir'!

Alan believes the CILT owes much to his predecessor, and he is keen to continue Len's plans. He says: 'During his short spell as International President Len Harper did a tremendous job in turning the strategy and principles we had developed into a practical business plan. Len's premature death has prevented him from following this

through, but I will ensure this programme is completed. This will be Len's legacy.'

Alan is an extremely well known figure in the logistics and transport profession. He started his career at British Steel and went on to spend over 25 years working in a wide range of industries across Europe, North America and the Far East. He was Senior Logistics partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers (now known as PWC), where he set up and Directed the Global Manufacturing Industry Programme, and he also founded and Directed the Centre for Logistics and Supply Chain Management at Cranfield School of Management. He is now Vice-President for Supply Chain Innovation at Solving Efeso and visiting Professor in International Supply Chain Management at Cranfield.

Alan isn't letting the grass grow under his feet. He says: 'The Institute has more than 30,000 Members working in over 100 countries; ranging from New Zealand to Nova Scotia and from Beijing to Barbados; in countries as large as Australia and small as Malta; in mature economies like the United Kingdom and in developing nations like Lesotho. The world is becoming a smaller place. Just as trade between countries intrinsically links the success of our economies, logistics and transport professionals in all those countries are connected by the Institute.'



Alan intends to concentrate his Presidency on growing membership in key territories, encouraging excellence and consistency, and promoting the CILT name in all parts of the world.

As International Vice President, Alan has been closely involved in the development and implementation of the current strategy, embracing new financial and governance models for CILT.

Quality Control with Growth

There are a number of major initiatives that Alan will concentrate on. His first emphasis will be ensuring the high reputation of the Institute is maintained throughout every country. This includes global standards for professional qualifications, as well as for the award and moderation of CILT Accreditations.

'Maintaining standards is vital to every Member of the Institute from Johannesburg to Jakarta, Los Angeles to Leicester. If we lower the standard in any place we devalue the achievement of all Members. Upholding our standards provides an aspiration for every new Member. All of us can contribute to those standards through the review of the Key Knowledge Areas and using these as a foundation for further developments in education and training,' says Alan. You can look forward to an article on this review and how you can contribute to the Knowledge Areas in a forthcoming *Focus*.

Growing Membership

A second major thrust is to grow membership across key existing and new countries. At present CILT in the United Kingdom has by far the largest and diverse membership. Alan is keen to see other councils and sections grow significantly to emulate the UK's success and broaden our global membership. Specifically there are tremendous opportunities to grow the Institute in India, North America and China, as well as establish the CILT in Brazil, Mexico, the Philippines and Turkey.

'Every Institute branch can contribute ideas for every member', notes Alan. A key initiative will be to ensure that we unlock and share our knowledge and expertise as a foundation for International growth. We need to turn the ingredients for synergy into a practical reality.'

Younger Members

The UK is actually a 'breeding ground' for International membership, observes Alan. 'Many young logisticians and transport professionals undertake at least part of their logistics and transport training in the UK, at centres such as Cranfield, Cardiff, Portsmouth and Hull. In many UK courses more than half of students may come from other countries. This means the courses must reflect the wider international logistics and transport community. Engaging these overseas students as Members in the UK provides a long term opportunity to keep them as part of the CILT family, by transferring their membership to other Branches when they complete their studies.'

The CILT UK Young Professionals Forum – established during Alan's tenure as UK President – has also been enthusiastically taken up by a number of other countries including Australia and Hong Kong. This gives a similar range of benefits for young Members internationally. 'Linking these up and extending into other countries provides a real foundation for our future-and theirs,' explains Alan.

Continuing challenges

The future for logisticians and transport professionals is challenging everywhere in the world. 'Transport is the only sector in which carbon emissions are still growing' observes Alan. 'By working through all our CILT Territories and Branches we can help to better control our carbon footprint. Business, the public and the planet will gain from this.'

The reason why transport emissions are growing is that the need for transport is still increasing globally. 'We can't ignore the demand for transport, or the fact that if we don't meet these demands the world won't work. Transport gives life to people and industry. By sharing knowledge and working globally we can improve the efficiency of the transport and logistics processes and systems, helping businesses make savings but also reducing the carbon footprint.'

Alan is keen to stress that, at a time when much of the world is coming out of what has been a global recession, it must be recognised that public transport and freight are key ingredients in restoring economies.

In times of economic difficulties worldwide it's not easy for people to afford the training to enter a logistics and transport career. For that reason Alan is keen to see ASPIRE, the careers foundation first created when Alan was UK President, become more widely available internationally.

In addition he is a Trustee and Director of Transaid – the international development charity that aims to reduce poverty and improve livelihoods across Africa and the developing world through creating better sustainable transport.

This means Alan can help CILT improve links between these organisations. As examples CILT-Pakistan is currently working with Transaid on health projects in the Lahore area, and CILT~Zambia and Transaid have worked together on improving the skills of bus drivers

International team

Because Alan has taken up the Presidency over a year earlier than expected, and has commitments to other organisations in place he has to honour, Alan has invited three International Vice Presidents from the UK: Richard Hunt CBE FCILT; Steve Rinsler FCILT and Derek Bell FCILT, to support him in his work short term.

In addition Alan will of course be working closely with Bernard Auton FCILT, Secretary General of CILT. Bernard says: 'These are sad circumstances for Alan to become President. But I know he and Len worked very closely on a shared view of the future for the Institute. I'm looking forward to working with Alan and our colleagues across the world implementing the strategy for growth that we developed.'

It's come earlier than planned, but Alan's International Presidency of CILT looks set to move the Institute forward across the world. In doing so we will further increase the global relevance of the CILT.



Alan has been closely involved in shaping the future of CILT internationally. Much of the groundwork was ratified at the CILT's International Convention in Malta.

