IEE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Engineering - The Future
or
Engineering the future

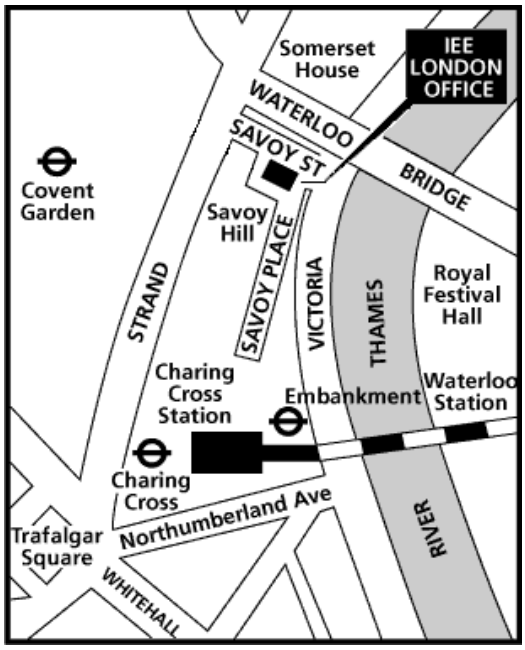
Professor Michael J H Sterling

IEE, Savoy Place, London WC2R 0BL
Thursday, 3 October 2002 at 6.00 pm (refreshments from 5.30 pm)

Synopsis
The Engineering profession faces many challenges as we begin the new millennium. In the U.K. the popularity of engineering as a career is declining and employers in some fields report difficulties recruiting appropriately qualified staff. We are not, however, alone in our difficulties; other countries in the western world face similar declines, but in the Asia-Pacific region, expansion is still strong.

The lecture will analyse these relative positions and illustrate how the supply and demand patterns have changed over time. Following a brief historical review of the emergence of engineering as a profession, it will go on to consider the vital formation stage of an engineering career and show how the education and training environment has been changed. The lecture will look forward to the emergence of internet-based delivery of both continuing professional development and elements of undergraduate education and go on to show how the recently approved changes to the IEE membership structure should help address the future needs of the profession.

The lecture will conclude with an analysis of the policy decisions required at both government and professional level and some personal predictions as to the future shape of the professional institutions.



Directions:
The IEE London offices are next door to the Savoy Hotel, on the river side (as opposed to the Strand entrance). The nearest underground station is **Embankment**. Exit the station on the river side (i.e. out to the main road), and turn left along Victoria Embankment. Walk down towards Waterloo Bridge, which is the next bridge down the river. The IEE is a red brick and white stone building on the corner of Savoy Place/Savoy Street, just before you cross the road to go under Waterloo Bridge.