



Annual Review 2013/14

scdi Scottish Council
for Development
and Industry

Engaging Civic Scotland: Driving Economic Growth

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You have valuable ideas,
insights & knowledge to share.

That's why we're committed to offering our Members
an open opportunity to connect, talk & have their input on
the policies, issues & agendas that matter to them most
& create sustainable economic growth for Scotland.

Engage & influence the conversation,
attend our diverse business programme
& join with us.

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If you'd like to take the temperature of the Scottish economy, just ask the SCDI membership

Ross Martin, Chief Executive

The SCDI membership ranges across all geographies, and throughout the private and public sectors, whilst moving deeper into the social economy. This provides a unique picture of Scotland's economic health and has enabled us to make significant interventions throughout the 83 years since our creation. Join us to help shape our ideas and deliver the next interventions which will continue to help in our core task of creating a more resilient and robust economy.



Chairman's Message



SCDI has encountered many significant years in its eight-decade history, but 2014 has represented a unique point in our national history, with the conclusion of the Referendum on Scotland's constitutional position dominating the debate about our future place in the world. For individuals, and for the population at large, there was indeed a sense of history in the making as this marked the most significant question to be posed in 300 years. I believe we should, therefore, take pride that 85% of the electorate wished to express their vote on 18 September, and that a vibrant debate covering every issue important to Scots - economic and social - and involving the whole of Scotland emerged.

Throughout that debate SCDI maintained its position of political impartiality and non-alignment. Our membership encompasses all sectors of the economy, including organisations both large and small, across public, private and third sectors. In reality, our membership is also likely to represent all shades of the political spectrum. SCDI's role is to inform and influence the agenda for Scotland's sustainable economic growth, and I believe in this respect we made a valuable contribution to consideration of Scotland's long-term economic vision and opportunities.

SCDI was both visible and vocal in representing its members' interests during the long lead-in to this unprecedented decision. In last year's Annual Review, I commended the Future Scotland series of reports delivered by SCDI, under the aegis of our Board and expert Steering Groups. This work, encapsulating our view of the long-term priorities and vision for Scotland's economy, continued to inform dialogue and debate throughout the year.

The Forum in May considered "Scotland: Beyond the Horizon", when 300 delegates debated the economic horizons and opportunities for our business sectors beyond a new constitutional settlement. As ever, the discussions were informed by expert insights and exemplars of success, placing the challenges for Scotland's economy firmly in the context of global trends and global change.

Our Future Scotland work also provided the foundation to take a series of robust questions to both sides of the constitutional campaign, and to search for both inspiration and realism in their responses. As detailed later in this review, our members participated in events with senior UK and Scottish Government Ministers, as well as noted academics and economists, throughout the year. I was also delighted to welcome the Governor of the Bank of England when he addressed SCDI members at a keynote event in Edinburgh in January, helping to illuminate the key implications of discussion around economic and monetary questions. Our programme of member participation also enabled our Committees and the wider membership across Scotland to share their views with us on Scotland's future.

Of course, the discussion has not halted with the result of the vote on 18 September. We now find ourselves rapidly immersed in the debate about potential further devolution of powers, and SCDI has been seeking again to reflect the priorities of our members in our meetings with, and submission to, the Smith Commission. I am confident that SCDI will continue to make constructive and evidenced contributions, whilst maintaining our focus on ensuring levers are firmly balanced towards creating the economic growth which will guarantee and sustain high quality jobs, businesses and communities across Scotland.

For SCDI, this is business as usual. We continue to deliver a stimulating programme of policy papers and engagement opportunities for members. While recent economic indicators have suggested more positive trends in the economy, there is still work to be done in boosting widespread confidence and increasing investment following some very challenging years, and with some of our key European markets still apparently failing to create consumer and investment growth there is much to be done. SCDI's core activity engages the collective strengths and experience of our diverse membership, in providing economic development leadership which can inform the priorities for policy makers in government and elsewhere.

I have greatly enjoyed meeting members in diverse locations and contexts throughout this year, including when chairing meetings of our Board and Executive Committee. SCDI is a vibrant network, wholly dependent on the engagement of members and the desire to participate in a larger sphere of influence for the greater good of Scotland's shared economic success and quality of life.

My thanks go to SCDI's President, Lady Susan Rice, and my Deputy Chair, Brendan Dick, for their counsel and support, and to fellow Board members and Committee members for the time and expertise they have devoted to SCDI this year. I would also like to thank the SCDI team for their customary excellent performance, maintaining the high quality output and member support we are accustomed to throughout this remarkable period. It is testament to the capabilities and solid understanding of Scotland's economic, political and social framework of our Chief Executive, Ross Martin, that this focus was sustained in his first year in the role. Well done, Ross.

In commending this review of our achievements in the last year, I thank all our members for your much valued support during this fascinating year and I greatly look forward to your continuing contribution to SCDI's future success.

Bill Drummond, SCDI Chairman



Foreword from our Chief Executive

Scotland's year in the spotlight, 2014, lit up by the bright white lights of the world's media, witnessed, amongst many other events, the "Best Commonwealth Games Ever", the transatlantic contest of the Ryder Cup and the MTV European Music Awards. Our international profile, across all continents, was raised immeasurably and we lit up the World around us in return.

A key aspect of our input into the big debate was to maintain the day to day focus on the engines of the economy

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The warmth of our welcome to people from all across the globe was a reflection of the energy which we generated during the Referendum, breaking new records for democratic engagement and participation, with 97% of the population registering to vote, and an average 85% turnout on September 18th. Significantly, whether people were on the Yes or the No side of the debate, a common thread ran through the public discourse - a concern that we can do better, allied to a demand for the change that would make that happen.

The nature of that change has emerged over recent months, with the Smith Commission seeking to decipher and then put in place the legislative proposals to deliver what Scotland actually voted for in September 2014. The decision to remain within the UK, but to recalibrate relationships within it, will help to shape our operating context throughout the coming years and we are actively preparing for those changes.

As we look back over the exciting and often challenging past year, we can be proud of how SCDI engaged in the debate over the future of our country and its economy - steadfastly maintaining our position of studied neutrality, whilst enabling energetic questioning of the main players and points. Our original entry into the debate, on the back of our Future Scotland series, was telling and it marked a step change in the Referendum debate from the politics of process and personalities to careful consideration of the economic policy implications of a Yes or a No vote.

Our business event hosting the Governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney, in Edinburgh for his first trip to Scotland, was a landmark moment in the Referendum campaign, and this was followed by subsequent highlights demonstrating the

often critical role which SCDI plays within the economy, as outlined in this Annual Review. Indeed, it has since been said that this event, more than any other, demonstrated that if anyone wants to take the temperature of the Scottish economy they need only ask the SCDI membership. I rather like that.

Of course, a key aspect of our input into the big debate was to maintain the day to day focus on the engines of the economy, and our supporting work with the Scottish Cities Alliance bears testament to that. The creation of a £10bn investment pipeline of infrastructure projects, demonstrating the positive effects of agglomeration, is a significant milestone in our timeline, representing yet another economic intervention which has certainly made its mark.

Likewise, our programme of regional development is spreading the SCDI message further afield, gathering the evidence for a series of interventions into local economies, whilst supporting the often excellent work which is already underway. For example, the Our Islands, Our Future campaign is spear-heading the devolution of power to the local level and, in much the same way as they've done before, Scotland's smaller communities are leading along the road to reform. SCDI supports this reconnection of people and place, recognising the value which stronger local economies can bring to Scotland as a whole.

Throughout this last year, a transition period for SCDI as well as for Scotland, we have sought to maintain our focus on that core mission of seeking to strengthen the Scottish economy by making it more resilient and robust. Expanding our energetic network of Young Engineers and Science Clubs continues to make a significant contribution to that aim. With now over 1,000 YESC clubs across all of Scotland's 32 local authorities, engaging 20,000 young people, we are well on our way to affording the opportunity for every school in Scotland to get involved.


So, as we look back over the past year, my first as Chief Executive of this unique Scottish institution, we can see many highlights, often where we have met challenge by forging opportunity. SCDI, with its strong heritage and even greater promise of things yet to come, has worked hard throughout this last year, whilst continuing to develop, and authentically lead, economic policy debate all across Scotland. 'Engaging Civic Scotland: Driving Economic Growth'. That's what we do.

Ross Martin, SCDI Chief Executive

Mark Carney, Governor of The Bank of England was welcomed to Edinburgh by SCDI's Chief Executive, Ross Martin



Engaging Civic Scotland: Driving Economic Growth



The Governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney, gave his first speech in Scotland to an assembled audience of SCDI members and guests

Policy and Political Engagement

2014 was a momentous year for Scotland, and this was reflected in SCDI's programme of engagement. While the independence referendum required us all to consider our long-term vision for a successful Scotland, the staging of the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and the Ryder Cup at Gleneagles illuminated the best of Scotland under a global spotlight.

While SCDI successfully preserved its position of impartiality in the constitutional debate, the organisation was nevertheless highly active throughout the year in providing opportunities for members to engage in the discussion with both sides of the campaign.

The foundations for this were provided by SCDI's Future Scotland programme of work undertaken during the previous year. This comprised a series of reports led by the SCDI Board and expert Steering Groups on key aspects of Scotland's economy – Macroeconomic and Fiscal Issues; Energy; and Europe and International Trade – outlining the current challenges facing the economy, SCDI's long-term aspirations in these areas, and Key Questions to the political campaigns. This was augmented by interviews with a representative range of members to capture the issues and concerns they wished to raise, an online survey of members to enable wider input, discussion at our Forum 2013, and a distillation of views in a fourth Future Scotland report entitled "Members' Views and Discussions".

Engagement on the issues raised by the Future Scotland programme heightened during 2013/2014.

In January 2014 the Governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney, gave his first speech in Scotland to an assembled audience of SCDI members and guests in Edinburgh. This proved to be a significant contribution to the debate, in particular addressing the key technical issues around ensuring whether a currency union can succeed. This event attracted widespread, indeed global, media coverage and provided much needed insight into a fundamental issue in the debate.

The then First Minister, The Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP, and the Chief Secretary to HM Treasury, The Rt Hon Danny Alexander MP, both addressed our Forum in May 2014, outlining their propositions for Scotland's economic future.

Further constitutional engagement around the country enabled members to question key Westminster and Holyrood politicians on the impact of their proposals on major economic issues for Scotland. These included sessions with: Nicola Sturgeon MSP, then Deputy First Minister; The Rt Hon William Hague MP, then Foreign & Commonwealth Secretary; The Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP, Secretary of State for Scotland; John Swinney MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Constitution & Economy; The Rt Hon Edward Davey MP, Secretary of State for Energy & Climate Change; The Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP, Secretary of State for Transport; The Rt Hon Michael Fallon MP, then Minister of State for Energy & Business Enterprise; Angela Constance MSP, then Cabinet Secretary for Training, Youth & Women's Employment; Fergus Ewing MSP, Minister for Business, Energy & Tourism; Chuka Umunna MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Business, Innovation & Skills; Iain Gray MSP, Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Employment & Sustainable Growth; Murdo Fraser MSP, Convenor of the Economy, Energy & Tourism Committee.

In addition, SCDI was a partner organisation in Referendum Debates for the local business community in both Aberdeen and Inverness.

SCDI joined with Oil & Gas UK to organise an event in London on constitutional change and the oil & gas sector.

Finally, a Post Referendum breakfast was organised by SCDI in Edinburgh the week after the vote, addressed by leading academics from the Economic and Research Council - The Future of the UK and Scotland programme, Professors Charlie Jeffery, Nicola McEwen, Stephen Tierney and David Bell.

Throughout this engagement, SCDI sought to maintain a clear focus on the long-term economic issues affecting Scotland's sustainable economic competitiveness and growth, regardless of the outcome. Similarly, now that the post-referendum discussion is focussed on extended devolution of powers to the Scottish Parliament and the work of the Smith Commission, SCDI is seeking to address the economic purpose, opportunity and added value to be generated by further devolution.

Aside from the historic events around constitutional change, SCDI continued to provide a channel for communication between our members and those elected representatives who are party spokespeople or hold committee convenerships. The Meet the Politician series continued with meetings involving Murdo Fraser MSP, Cathy Jamieson MP and Mike Weir MP.

SCDI also works closely with the 32 Local Authorities throughout Scotland. SCDI provided the secretariat to the Scottish Local Authorities' Economic Development Officers' group (SLAED), including organisation of SLAED's annual conference.

Our Influencers' Dinner series continued across Scotland, bringing together business and civic leaders to provide a forum for expert insights and opportunity for a deeper dialogue and exchange of views with members.



The Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP,
First Minister of Scotland



Chuka Umunna MP, Shadow Secretary of State
for Business, Innovation & Skills



Murdo Fraser MSP,
Convenor of the Economy,
Energy & Tourism Committee



The Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP,
Secretary of State for Scotland

Key contributors to this year's Influencers' Dinner programme were:

Gareth Baird, Scottish Commissioner, The Crown Estate
 Susan Bree, then Chief Executive, Aberdeen Inspired
 Stewart Carruth, Strategic Director, Scottish Cities Alliance
 Doug Clark, Cloud Leader, IBM UK & Ireland
 Craig Clark, CEO, Clyde Space
 Dr Chris Dorman, Chairman, UK Photonics Industry Leadership Group
 James Dunbar, Chief Executive, New Start Highland
 Sinclair Dunlop, Managing Partner, Rock Spring Ventures
 Fergus Ewing MSP, Minister for Energy, Enterprise & Tourism, Scottish Government
 The Rt Hon Michael Fallon MP, then Minister of State for Energy & Business Enterprise, Department of Energy & Climate Change
 Caroline Gardner, Auditor General for Scotland, Audit Scotland
 John Harris, President, Gaffney Cline
 David Hastings, Chair, Inverness Airport Business Park
 Sebastian Hollmeier, Director of Network Planning & Hub Development, Lufthansa
 Mike Imlach, Managing Director, Bristow Helicopters
 Jashen Josson, Assistant Director, Capital & Debt Advisory, EY
 Jane-Claire Judson, National Director, Diabetes Scotland
 Cllr Jenny Laing, Leader, Aberdeen City Council
 Sir Michael Lyons, Strategic Adviser, CBRE
 John McFarlane OBE, Chairman, FirstGroup
 Stuart McRae, Certified IT Specialist, IBM Collaborative Solutions
 Professor Clive Mulholland, Principal, The University of the Highlands and Islands
 Andrew Murphy, Retail Director, John Lewis Partnership
 Tim O'Toole CBE JD, Chief Executive, FirstGroup
 Hugh Ouston, Head of School, Robert Gordon's College
 Angela Scott, Chief Executive, Aberdeen City Council
 David Snowball, Director Scotland & Northern England, Health & Safety Executive
 Morven Spalding, Skills Development Director, OPITO
 Mike Spradbery, Software Mobile Lead, UK, IBM
 Robin Watson, Chief Executive Officer, Wood Group PSN
 Malcolm Webb, Chief Executive, Oil & Gas UK
 George Yule, Vice Chairman, Aberdeen Football Club

In addition we held a wide diversity of business seminars, roundtable discussions and 'behind the scenes' visits to inform and engage members in a wide range of themes of current relevance. Speakers at these sessions included:

Dustin Benton, Head of Resource Stewardship, The Green Alliance
 Chris Brodie, Lead Manager, Key Industry Sectors, Skills Development Scotland
 David Coyne, Head of City Deal Team, Glasgow City Council
 Richard Crisp, Director of Systems Engineering, IBM Rational
 Sir Howard Davies, Chairman, Airports Commission
 Will Dowson, Agent for Scotland, Bank of England
 Stuart Garrett, Managing Director, Serco Northlink Ferries
 Claire Haigh, Chief Executive, Greener Journeys
 Julie Hill, Chair, UK Circular Economy Task Force
 Alan Johnstone, Managing Director – Brownfield & Asset Management, AMEC
 Mike Kean, Rail Development Director, Abellio UK
 Ewen Macdonell, Community Liaison Officer, Forth Crossing Bridge Constructors
 Professor Anton Muscatelli, Principal & Vice-Chancellor, University of Glasgow
 Professor Ferdinand von Prondzynski, Principal & Vice Chancellor, Robert Gordon University
 The Rt Hon Lord Smith of Kelvin, Chairman of the Green Investment Bank, SSE, Weir Group & Glasgow 2014 Ltd.
 John Swinney MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Constitution & Economy, Scottish Government
 Stewart Wingate, Chief Executive Officer, London Gatwick Airport

Professor Dr Stefan Wolter, Head of the Centre for Research in Economics of Education, University of Bern & Managing Director, Swiss Coordination Centre for Research in Education addressed the SCDI Forum 2014



Shaping Scotland's Economy through SCDI Policy Agenda

Forum 2014

SCDI's Annual Forum continues to maintain its leading position in strategic discussion about Scotland's future economic vision. The 43rd Forum, entitled "Scotland: Beyond the Horizon", was held at the RBS Gogarburn campus, Edinburgh and was attended by 300 delegates who engaged with senior leaders and influencers from Scotland, the UK and internationally. An executive symposium held prior to the opening of the conference saw 60 Scottish leaders assembling to set the context for Forum discussions. Diane Coyle OBE, leading economist and Director of Enlightenment Economics, provided a scene-setting overview. This was also the overview for the main conference, followed by a range of expert perspectives by keynote speakers.

Forum 2014 keynote contributors included:

The Rt Hon Danny Alexander MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury
 Ken Barclay, Chairman - Scotland, The Royal Bank of Scotland
 Sandy Begbie, Group Operations Officer, Standard Life
 Diane Coyle OBE, Leading Economist & Director of Enlightenment Economics
 Bill Drummond, Chair, SCDI & Managing Partner, Brodies LLP
 Geoff French, President, Institution of Civil Engineers
 Andrew Jamieson, CEO, Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult
 Stephen Leonard, General Manager, Worldwide Sales, Systems & Technology Group, IBM
 Joe Montgomery, Chief Executive, Urban Land Institute Europe
 Lady Susan Rice CBE, President, SCDI & Managing Director, Lloyds Banking Group Scotland
 Kevin Roxburgh, Managing Director, Scottish Gas
 The Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP, then First Minister of Scotland
 Matthew Taylor, Chief Executive, The Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures & Commerce (RSA)
 Robin Watson, Chief Executive Officer, Wood Group PSN
 Stian Westlake, Executive Director of Policy & Research, Nesta
 Professor Dr Stefan Wolter, Head of the Centre for Research in Economics of Education, University of Bern & Managing Director, Swiss Coordination Centre for Research in Education

Forum 2014's Infrastructure Investment session speaker's panel with Sally Magnusson - Geoff French, President, Institution of Civil Engineers; Robin Watson, Chief Executive Officer, Wood Group PSN; Joe Montgomery, Chief Executive, Urban Land Institute Europe



Diane Coyle OBE, Leading Economist & Director of Enlightenment Economics led the Executive Symposium and also gave the opening address at Forum 2014

Policy Submissions

SCDI continues to lead and inform policy on behalf of members through our submissions to Scottish and UK Governments, the European Commission, local government, and a range of non-governmental bodies and agencies. This year we submitted 29 responses on their behalf.

Macroeconomy & Fiscal Policy

- Scottish Government on Moving Forward with a Land & Building Transaction Tax
- Scottish Parliament's Infrastructure & Capital Investment Committee on the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Bill
- Letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Budget 2014

Connectivity

- Glasgow Airport Strategic Transport Appraisal
- Scottish Parliament on Scotland's Third National Planning Framework
- High Speed Rail Scotland Group response on HS2 Phase 2
- Scottish Government on A9 Average Speed Cameras
- Scottish Government on NPF3 and Rail Freight
- High Speed Rail Scotland Group response on reports 'HS2 Plus' and 'High Speed 2: Get Ready'
- North Lanarkshire Council on the Mossend International Railfreight Park
- Airports Commission on the Utilisation of the UK's Existing Airport Capacity
- Department for Transport on the TransPennine Express Rail Franchise

Skills & Productivity

- Scottish Government on The Wood Commission on Developing Scotland's Young Workforce

Sustainability

- Response to Call for Evidence on the London School of Economics' New Climate Economy
- Scottish Government on Towards Decarbonising Heat: Maximising Opportunities for Scotland
- Response to The City of Edinburgh's Sustainable Energy Action Plan 2020
- Consultation on Additional Support for Island Renewables
- Scottish Natural Heritage in relation to the Core Areas of Wild Land 2013 Map

Energy

- Ofgem on Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission's Proposed Transmission Project between Caithness and Moray
- Department of Energy & Climate Change on Support for Non-Domestic Electricity Consumers on Shetland
- HM Treasury on the Review of the Oil & Gas Fiscal Regime

Local Economic Development

- Scottish Government on the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill
- Scottish Parliament on the paper submitted by the Scottish Business Ratepayers Group on the "Material Change of Circumstances" Appeal System in Scotland
- Scottish Parliament's Local Government & Regeneration Committee on the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill
- Scottish Government on Draft Scottish Planning Policy - Sustainability & Planning

International

- UK Export Finance (UK Government) on the proposals to make changes to the Secretary of State's powers under the Export & Investment Guarantees Act 1991
- Scottish Parliament's Economy, Energy & Tourism Committee on 'The Draft Budget 2015-16 and Increasing Exports'

Other

- HMRC regarding Onshore Employment Intermediaries: False Self-Employment Policy
- Scottish Government on the Scottish Regulators' Strategic Code of Practice

The Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP,
then First Minister of Scotland,
addressed the Forum 2014 Dinner



Stephen Leonard, General Manager, Worldwide Sales,
Systems & Technology Group, IBM



Matthew Taylor, Chief Executive,
The RSA delivered the closing
address at Forum 2014



The Rt Hon Danny Alexander MP,
Chief Secretary to the Treasury,
engages at Forum 2014

Outcomes and Achievements

Critical to the policy and engagement work that SCDI undertakes is our ability to influence and support the development of government and local economic development policy on behalf of our members both directly and through our consultation responses. Some of the achievements of SCDI's policy work during the year included:

- UK Government decision to freeze duty on Scotch whisky in the 2014 Budget
- UK Government decision to review the fiscal regime for North Sea oil and gas
- Creation of an independent Scottish Fiscal Commission to review and scrutinise future Scottish tax receipts and spending
- Announcement by Transport Scotland of rail infrastructure improvements between Aberdeen and Inverness
- Glasgow City Deal announced between UK & Scottish Governments to fund major employment and transport programmes, including a future rail link to Glasgow Airport
- Ofgem approval for subsea interconnector from Caithness to Moray
- Extension of UK Export Finance support beyond established exporters to also include companies contemplating exporting or in an exporting supply chain
- Scottish Government funding for a remanufacturing hub to support circular economy innovation
- Recommendation that procurement and supply chain policies in both the public and private sectors should be applied to encourage more employers to support the development of Scotland's young workforce

Victoria Arnold, CEO, Desk Union at the
National Business Convention 2014

Supporting Growth, Competitiveness and Skills

Research and Analysis

SCDI has a strong track record in delivering research to inform policy and support economic development. Specific research in 2013-14 included:

The Scotland-wide Skills Pulse survey, undertaken in partnership with Skills Development Scotland. The aim of the study is to capture, analyse and disseminate Scottish employers' views on skills and business need. This is an annual survey to establish benchmarks and monitor improvements in skills support over time.

A Global Skills survey was undertaken in partnership with British Council Scotland, to determine perceptions of the value of global skills in young people entering the workforce and the contribution of these skills to Scotland's economic competitiveness in the global market. Surveys of employers, educational institutions, and young people themselves, highlighted the opportunities and the deficiencies perceived in the current environment.

SCDI and the Green Alliance were commissioned by Zero Waste Scotland to work with Scottish businesses to develop a roadmap for the circular economy in Scotland by 2050. An initial workshop was attended by 40 key stakeholders from business and policy communities, and the draft report was subject of further discussion in a breakout seminar at the Forum 2014.



Damien Yeates, Chief Executive, Skills Development Scotland, addressed our Skills Summit in Aberdeen

The event launched Scottish Apprenticeship Week 2014, and discussion included priorities for the Wood Commission for Developing Scotland's Young Workforce, employer engagement in schools, and the potential offered to employers by Modern Apprentices.

The skills and employment agenda continued with a roundtable session in June with Angela Constance MSP, then Cabinet Secretary for Training, Youth & Women's Employment. The meeting, held at Standard Life offices in Edinburgh, was an opportunity for key employers to share experience and perspectives on youth employability issues and the measures employers were pursuing to create opportunities.

Engaging and Delivering

The fourth National Business Convention, jointly delivered by SCDI and the Federation of Small Businesses in September 2014, addressed the contribution and potential of small businesses in delivering economic growth. The Convention attracted over 200 delegates, including SMEs from a diverse range of sectors, representatives from the professional services sector, and business support agencies including Skills Development Scotland and Business Gateway.

With a focus on supporting and promoting the contribution of small businesses to the economy, the event provided practical and informative advice to help meet the opportunities within Scotland and internationally. Sessions focussed on Innovation, Internationalisation and Entrepreneurship, with practical workshops on Digital Security, Media Training and Export Finance.

SCDI also organised an Employee Engagement Conference in November 2013, entitled "People Power: Invest for Success", held at Murrayfield Stadium in Edinburgh in partnership with Scottish Gas. The event brought together business leaders, policymakers and employees to explore best practice and innovation in workforce and workplace development.

SCDI's national "Developing Talent: Growing Business" Skills Summit took place in May in Aberdeen, under the title "Is the Labour Market Working?" The conference was delivered by SCDI and Skills Development Scotland, in partnership with OPITO. It addressed the impact of current investment in skills on economic growth, and the disconnect between labour market supply and opportunity.

SCDI worked in partnership with Social Enterprise Scotland to deliver the Social Enterprise Exchange Leadership Dinner 2014, which took place at the Old Fruitmarket in Glasgow in June. The event was intended to showcase the importance of the social enterprise sector as a dynamic and integral part of the Scottish economy, and to encourage meaningful engagement between social enterprises and public and private sectors. Around 250 guests attended, and were addressed by John Swinney MSP, Cabinet Secretary, and Josh Littlejohn, Founder of Social Bite and the Scottish Business Awards.



Stephen Park Brown, Managing Director of NVT Group, gave his entrepreneurial vision at the National Business Convention 2014



Mark Hogarth, Creative Director, Harris Tweed Hebrides shares their global ambitions with the National Business Convention 2014

Regional Activity

With a membership network located throughout Scotland, SCDI's regional presence ensures we can engage and consult on Scotland's economic agenda with the priorities of the regional economies taken fully into account. Our offices in Aberdeen and Inverness support local Committees representing industry leaders across all sectors, engaging directly on policy issues of local significance and incorporating the local perspective in national policy proposals. 2015 will mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of SCDI's presence in the North East and the Highlands & Islands.

Our Annual Lecture 2014 was held in Aberdeen in January, once again attracting a capacity audience of senior business leaders, politicians and academics. The keynote speaker on this occasion was Dr Marcus Richards, formerly Group CEO for Dana Petroleum plc, who highlighted the challenges facing the UK oil and gas sector in an increasingly competitive and globalised market. This event is firmly established as the must-attend event in the North East business calendar.



Dr Marcus Richards delivered the SCDI Annual Lecture 2014 in Aberdeen



Michael Urquhart presents the SCDI Highlands & Islands Chairman's Award for Outstanding Business Achievement to Tony Story, Managing Director & Owner of The Kingsmills Hotel, with H&I Awards guest speaker David Grevemberg, Chief Executive, Glasgow 2014 Ltd



Rory Bremner entertained our H&I Awards guests



SCDI President, Lady Susan Rice CBE

The 15th SCDI Highlands & Islands Business Excellence Awards took place in Inverness in September. David Grevenberg, Chief Executive of Glasgow 2014 Ltd, was guest speaker.

He spoke about the inspirational response to hosting the XX Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, the largest multi-sport event ever to be staged in Scotland and given the accolade of "the best Commonwealth Games ever".

Awards were presented during the evening to a range of Highlands & Islands enterprises and organisations for excellence in their field:



David Grevenberg, Chief Executive, Glasgow 2014 Ltd accepts the SCDI President's Award from Ross Martin, Chief Executive, SCDI

On the evening the SCDI President's Award for Outstanding Contribution to Scotland was presented by video-link by Lady Susan Rice CBE, President, SCDI, to the whole team responsible for delivering the Glasgow 2014 Games, recognising the efforts of those from bid stage, to infrastructure development and then of course to the successful delivery of the Games. This surprise Award was accepted by David Grevenberg, Chief Executive, Glasgow 2014 Ltd on behalf of all of those involved.

Key policy issues for both the North East and the Highlands have included air connectivity between regional and London gateway airports. It was, therefore, an invaluable opportunity for SCDI to communicate its message directly when Sir Howard Davies, Chair of the Davies Commission on Airports Capacity, was invited to meet SCDI members in both Aberdeen and Inverness.

Throughout the year, SCDI continued to develop its regional programmes with events and key meetings held in Ayrshire, Dumfries & Galloway, Tayside and Forth Valley. SCDI's Annual General Meeting was hosted by Falkirk Council at the Falkirk Wheel, and attended by over 100 members. Mary Pitcaithly OBE, Chief Executive of Falkirk Council, addressed members on the significant economic and regeneration projects in the local area.

Benromach Award for Excellence in International Business

Orion Group

A Highly Commended recognition was also made in this category to Keltic Seafare

The Crown Estate One to Watch Award for Excellence in a Marine Business

Moray First Marine Ltd

Global Energy Award for Excellence in People Development

Moray Firth Radio

Highlands and Islands Enterprise Award for Excellence in Research & Innovation

Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd

ScotRail Business Direct Award for Excellence in Business Service & Engagement

The Wee Agency

SEPA Award for Excellence in Environmental Sustainability

Carbon Clever

The Walkers Shortbread Award for Outstanding Business Ambassador

ANTA Scotland

SCDI Highlands & Islands Chairman's Award for Outstanding Business Achievement

The Kingsmills Hotel

A Highly Commended recognition was also made in this category to Caledonian MacBrayne Ferries Ltd.

Also recognised at the Awards Dinner were Tain Royal Academy, who received the SCDI Award for H&I Young Engineers & Science Club of the Year.



Andy Scott's small-scale 'The Kelpies' sculpture at the Falkirk Wheel during our AGM

London

As part of its programme, SCDI seeks to champion the Scottish policy agenda to key influencers and decision-makers in Westminster and the City. SCDI's London Committee continues to focus on opportunities for highlighting and communicating the key issues affecting Scotland's economy.

During the year, the series of Caledonian Conversations continued with a dinner in February, when over 50 strategic representatives from Scotland's transport sector engaged with The Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP, Secretary of State for Transport on the issues of cross-border transport connectivity between Scotland and the rest of the UK.

The event, organised in partnership with London Gatwick Airport, discussed London airport capacity and regional links to Scottish airports, the impact of High Speed Rail on Scotland's economy, and continuing investment priorities in West and East Coast lines and services, and in key roads such as the A1.

The Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP, Secretary of State for Scotland, welcomed members to a networking reception held at The Scotland Office, Dover House, in April 2014.

This was followed by an event on the constitutional change debate, and its potential implications for the Oil & Gas sector, organised in partnership with Oil & Gas UK in the City and attended by a wide range of representatives of London-based stakeholders in the sector.



Stewart Carruth, Director, Scottish Cities Alliance and Chief Executive of Stirling Council discusses city investment plans with David Coyne, Head of City Deal, Glasgow City Council, Greg Ward, Director of Economic Development, The City of Edinburgh Council and Ross Martin, Chief Executive, SCDI



Scottish Cities Alliance

SCDI supports the delivery of the Scottish Cities Alliance, led in partnership with Scotland's seven cities and the Scottish Government, to maximise the potential of the cities through collaboration on shared strengths and specific projects. SCDI hosts a dedicated team, co-ordinating activity at leadership, delivery and action team levels aligned with the Strategic Implementation Plan.

A Cities Summit was organised by SCDI on behalf of the Alliance during the year, attended by 150 delegates from public and private sectors.

The appointment of a Strategic Director during the year led to a clear focus on the steps necessary to maximising opportunities from the Strategic Plan. The resultant focus on Investment Plans across all seven cities has led to the publication of infrastructure investment propositions across all Scotland's cities, valued at £10 billion, which the cities can collectively take to the market.



We delivered the inaugural Social Enterprise Exchange Leadership Dinner in partnership with Social Enterprise Scotland

Scotland in the Global Economy





World-class golfers from Team Europe and Team USA competed for The Ryder Cup 2014 at Gleneagles, Perthshire (image courtesy of The Gleneagles Hotel)

Helping Scottish businesses to internationalise is a core objective in SCDI's agenda for the sustainable growth of Scotland's economy. SCDI has an unrivalled track record spanning over five decades of promoting international trade, and our membership encompasses highly experienced and successful global players through to SMEs with ambitions to take their first steps into global markets.

SCDI contributed to the work of the Wilson Review of Support for Scottish Exporting, and gave preliminary evidence to the Scottish Parliament Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee on its Inquiry into Scottish Exports. SCDI has engaged with UKTI through the year in opportunities to deliver projects to exporters. We also worked in partnership on a range of events from a China Business Breakfast organised by SCDI at University of Glasgow, to events with Enterprise Ireland and Hong Kong Trade Development Council.



Superstar sprinter Usain Bolt was just one of the global athletes competing at Hampden Park during the Glasgow 2014 Games (image courtesy of Glasgow City Marketing Bureau)

In addition, SCDI has undertaken four visits to Germany during the year, in developing a key relationship with this priority market. These have focussed on Munich/Bavaria and Berlin.

SCDI's International Business Committee is in the process of being established, to involve successful exporting members across Scotland and across sectors in leading SCDI's forward programmes of international business engagement.

During 2014 the Commonwealth Games brought Scotland into the global spotlight, and offered many opportunities for SCDI to participate in meetings and events with visiting delegations ranging from Australia to Africa and India. In addition to participating in the high-level Business Conference arranged by the UK and Scottish Governments prior to the official opening of the Games, SCDI supported events held in both the British Business House and Scotland House, including SCDI's own seminar on "Inspiring Infrastructure - Scotland's Economic Foundation" addressed by John Swinney MSP, and officials from Glasgow City Council and Forth Crossing Bridge Constructors.



Brilliant resources and a great team leading the session who were really helpful

Pauline Macleod, Sir E Scott School, Western Isles

A photograph of two young women, likely students, wearing safety gear. They are both wearing white hard hats with 'RTD' and 'plus' logos, clear safety glasses, and large yellow earplugs. They are also wearing bright orange high-visibility jackets over their school uniforms. The woman on the right is smiling broadly and looking towards the camera. The woman on the left is also smiling and looking slightly away from the camera. In the background, a metal structure and a sign with the word 'THALES' are visible.

Inspiring Future Generations



...the work that YESC is doing to encourage young people to get in to science is exciting for the industry and for Scotland

Ian Chree, UK Operations Director, Finsbury Food Group plc

YESC also provides CPD training sessions to teachers, and during the year sessions held across Scotland involved 460 teachers. In addition, 45 events were held across the country. The team of Regional Co-ordinators serving local schools and communities has continued to expand, with a North East Programme Manager and Ayrshire Co-ordinator joining the team during the year.

SCDI's Young Engineers & Science Clubs programme is a leading source of inspiration, excitement and resources for Scotland's young people. Since 1987, we have worked in partnership with our members to develop topical, hands-on and engaging STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) projects, to bring science and technology to life in the classroom.

A Scotland-wide primary and secondary education programme, there are now more than 20,000 budding scientists and engineers in over 1,000 clubs across the country. In the last year alone 220 new clubs joined our network.

Our clubs are mainly aimed at P5 – S6 students, with the “wow factor” provided by many private and public sector partners allowing us to provide free bespoke science and engineering experiment kits.

A portfolio of resources is provided across a range of disciplines. Six new projects were developed and launched during the year, including Carbon Capture and Storage, Pi in the Sky Weather Station, Ten Green Bottles, Sensational Science, Junior Saltire 2014 brief and Ping Pong Pentathlon Challenge. The new dedicated website for the programme was also launched.



Our Partners

We would like to acknowledge the Partnership support provided by the following members.
A full list of SCDI members can be found at www.scdi.org.uk

Abellio	abellio.com	City Building (Glasgow) LLP	citybuildingglasgow.co.uk
Aberdeen Douglas Hotel	aberdeendouglas.com	The City of Edinburgh Council	edinburgh.gov.uk
Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre (AECC)	aecc.co.uk	The Crown Estate	thecrownestate.co.uk
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Aberdeenshire Council	aberdeenshire.gov.uk	Engineering Construction Industry Training Board	ecitb.org.uk
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Accenture	accenture.com	EY	ey.com
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ARR Craib Transport	arr-craib.co.uk	Falkirk Council	falkirk.gov.uk
Arta	arta.co.uk	Federation of Small Businesses	fsb.org.uk/Scotland
BAE Systems	baesystems.com	FirstGroup	firstgroup.com
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The BIG Partnership	bigpartnership.co.uk	Highland Spring	highland-spring.com
BP p.l.c	bp.com	Highlands and Islands Enterprise	hie.co.uk
Bristow Helicopters	bristowgroup.com	Hilton Glasgow Hotel	hiltonglasgow.co.uk
The British Council Scotland	scotland.britishcouncil.org	HITRANS	hitrans.org.uk
Brodies LLP	brodies.com	House for an Art Lover	houseforanartlover.co.uk
BT Scotland	btplc.com	IBM	ibm.com/uk/en
Business Gateway	business.scotland.gov.uk	Institute of Physics in Scotland	iop.org
Caithness & North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership	cnsrp.org.uk	Institution of Engineering and Technology	theiet.org
Carmelite Aberdeen	carmelitehotels.com	Inverness Airport Business Park	iabp.co.uk
CBRE	cbre.com	The Kingmills Hotel	kingmillsotel.co.uk
Chevron North Sea Ltd	chevron.com		
Chiene + Tait	chiene.co.uk		
Children in Scotland	childreninscotland.org.uk		

Law At Work	lawatwork.co.uk	The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh	surgeonshall.com
The Law Society of Scotland	lawscot.org.uk	The Royal Society of Edinburgh	royalsoced.org.uk
Ledingham Chalmers LLP	ledinghamchalmers.com	Save and Invest	saveandinvest.co.uk
Lesley Davidson Marketing	ladmarketing.co.uk	ScotRail Business Direct	scotrail.co.uk/businessdirect
LifeScan Scotland Ltd	lifescan.co.uk	Scottish Cities Alliance	scottishcitiesalliance.co.uk
Lloyd's Register EMEA	lr.org	Scottish Enterprise	scottish-enterprise.com
Lloyd's Register Foundation	lrfoundation.org.uk	Scottish Environment Protection Agency	sepa.org.uk
London Gatwick Airport	gatwickairport.com	Scottish Gas	britishgas.co.uk
Lufthansa	lufthansa.com	The Scottish Government	scotland.gov.uk
Macrae & Dick	macraeanddick.co.uk	Scottish Oil Club	scottishoilclub.org.uk
The Marcliffe Hotel and Spa	marcliffe.com	Scottish Salmon Producers' Organisation	scottishsalmon.co.uk
Marine Harvest (Scotland)	marineharvest.com	Selex ES	selex-es.com
The Marine Hotel, Troon	thehotelcollection.co.uk/hotels/marine-hotel-troon	Serco Northlink Ferries	northlinkferries.co.uk
Marriott Aberdeen	aberdeennmarriott.co.uk	Shell U.K. Limited	shell.com
McLeod & Aitken	mcleodaitken.com	Siemens	siemens.co.uk
Meldrum House Country Hotel	meldrumhouse.com	Skills Development Scotland	skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk
Menzies Glasgow Hotel	menzieshotels.co.uk/hotels/scotland/glasgow/	Social Enterprise Scotland	socialenterprisescotland.org.uk
Metro Ecosse	metroecosse.com	Stewart Milne Group	stewartmilne.com
MHP Communications	mhpc.com	TAQA Bratani Limited	taqaglobal.com
Miller Construction	miller.co.uk	Thistle Aberdeen Altens Hotel	thistlehotels.com/altens
Morrison Construction	morrisonconstruction.co.uk	Thistle Glasgow	thistlehotels.com/glasgow
National Grid	nationalgrid.com	Tomorrow's Engineers	tomorrowsengineers.org.uk
NESTRANS	nestrans.org.uk	TOTAL E&P UK Limited	uk.total.com
Norwood Hall Hotel	norwood-hall.co.uk	TSG	tsg.com
Nuffield Health	nuffieldhealth.com	University of Glasgow	gla.ac.uk
Oil & Gas UK	oilandgasuk.co.uk	University of the Highlands and Islands	uhi.ac.uk
OPITO	opito.com	Virtual Stream	virtualstream.co.uk
Orion Group	orionjobs.com	Walkers Shortbread	walkersshortbread.com
Park Inn Aberdeen	parkinn.co.uk/hotel-aberdeen	Weir Group	weir.co.uk
The Press and Journal	pressandjournal.co.uk	Wood Group	woodgroup.com
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