The international conference was set to accommodate a large number of delegates from the academic profession, and as a result it was important for EESD13 to be based in a venue with a comfortable, tiered auditorium, complete with audio and projection technology for speakers.

The global nature of the event required delegates to travel from around the world to attend the four day conference. This meant that a venue with on-site accommodation for all attendees was a high priority. Alongside accommodation, necessary space was required for exhibitors and posters.

The subject matter of EESD13 was a large contributory factor to the choice of venue. ‘Rethinking the Engineer’ focused on the evolution of sustainable development thinking in young engineers and associated professionals, and was designed to bring together students, academics, graduates and practitioners to rethink the professional engineer’s role and responsibilities in modern society.

Historically, the conference has attracted between 110 – 160 delegates, EESD13 was at the upper level with 160 delegates in total, 160 initial abstract submissions and 88 full paper presentations at the conference itself. Due to the nature of the subject, this conference historically attracts mainly academics with a small proportion of students and people from the industry.

Robinson College’s exclusive supplementary package Delegate+, featuring the newly installed Delegate Management System was the deciding factor for securing the college as the location for EESD13. As the system was user-friendly for the organisers who had no previous conferencing experience and no systems in place to manage this side of the logistics.
EESD13 was a great success, attracting a higher number of delegates than in previous years originating from 25 different countries, with a full programme of exploratory and prominent issues within the industry.

The picturesque gardens at Robinson were an ideal setting, along with its ethos of committed sustainability and policy of reducing the impact of college activities upon the environment.

Robinson College offered a complete package, with on-site accommodation, a central location and variety of meetings and conference spaces, as well as a number of support services, including someone on hand to help with any technological issues and the Delegate Management System (DMS).

Organising such a large international conference was made significantly easier with the use of Delegate+. The system is a great asset to Robinson College, as it differs from alternative registration by being completely tailored to the requirements of EESD13 and coming complete with support constantly available.

Having such obliging staff and porters on hand was extremely beneficial, as they handled all the accommodation and also all the taxi bookings, which took some pressure off the committee organisers, who could concentrate on the smooth running of the event.

On the day, the staff at Robinson College were helpful, efficient and flexible to the requirements of the event. The conference and catering team were immensely helpful and thorough from pre to post event, ensuring the financial aspects of the package were correct prior to implementing the DMS. Although the new system had its teething problems, issues were responded to quickly and solutions were always found, so that the system worked smoothly and efficiently overall.

On the buildup to the conference it was beneficial to have such calm and professional support available on the end of the phone, as well as staff who knew the venue inside out and were able to offer advice and practical solutions.

Robinson College’s dedication to customer service, both on the phone and in person, highlights the quality of the venue and demonstrates how they created the perfect environment for organisers, speakers and attendees at EESD13.