

World Federation of Engineering Organisations & International Engineering Alliance Memorandum of Understanding

Date: April 2014

Background:

At the 2011 World Engineering Convention in Geneva the Chair of the International Engineering Alliance Governing Group, Basil Wakelin, called for discussions between IEA and WFEO on 'processes and mechanisms for effective and efficient collaboration to better accomplish mutual goals'. In late 2013, WFEO began reviewing its marketing, communications and external relations; this review has already shown that, as the world body for the engineering profession, there are strong drivers for deeper involvement in the issue of mobility. WFEO is now developing a new strategy and priority areas will include new partnerships and investing in the support it offers to its members.

IEA Profile:

The International Engineering Alliance is a group of self-regulating educational accords and professional competence recognition agreements which have a substantially equivalent view of what constitutes an acceptable professional engineering education and professional competence. The educational accords and the exemplar standards apply to qualifications to enter practice.

The accords comprise the Washington Accord for professional engineering education, the Sydney accord for engineering technologist education, and the Dublin accord for engineering technician education. The signatories to each accord agree to recognise the equivalence of each other's qualification standards and accreditation procedures.

The competence agreements set exemplar competency standards for professional engineering (the International Professional Engineers Agreement and the APEC Engineer Agreement), engineering technologist (the International Engineering Technologist Agreement) and engineering technicians.

Both accords and agreements have arrangements for mentoring those who wish to become members and those provisional members who wish to develop and upgrade their systems to enable full membership.

In short, IEA has a **vital role in accreditation and competence assessment** standard setting but is more limited in the assistance it can provide to those in the early stages of these activities.

WFEO Profile:

The World Federation of Engineering Organisations is an international non-governmental organisation representing the engineering profession worldwide. Founded in 1968 by a group of regional engineering groups, under the auspices of UNESCO, WFEO brings together national engineering institutions from over 90 nations and represents some 20 million engineers. WFEO operates ten Standing Technical Committees on global engineering issues. Mobility of professional engineers is part of WFEO's mission, and WFEO has a policy and several key papers on the issue.

In short, WFEO has a **vital role in networking and capacity building** but not in accreditation or competence assessment.

Introduction:

Mutual recognition of engineering qualifications and competence is increasingly important for the public good as global trade grows. WFEO and IEA are seeking to collaborate and combine their respective roles, to promote accreditation and competence assessment and to build the capacity of national bodies around the world to the point where they can join global accords.

There is a particular area that could benefit from such collaboration. IEA currently mentors engineering accrediting and competence assessment bodies in different countries to develop their accreditation and assessment systems to a point where they can join an IEA accord or agreement. However, the IEA is often approached by bodies that are not yet ready for mentoring – usually because they have only recently been established or lack sufficient resources or capacity to absorb mentoring. So there is an opportunity here for WFEO to provide capacity building support with a specific focus on preparing for mentoring by the IEA.

Aims:

1. To raise awareness of the importance of accreditation of engineering qualifications and competence assessment to global standards.
2. To build political and financial commitment for the development of national engineering accreditation and competence assessment bodies.
3. To build the capacity of national accreditation and competence assessment bodies to the point where they can be mentored by the IEA.
4. To build the capacity of national accreditation and competence assessment bodies to the point where they can join the IEA accords and agreements as provisional and eventually full members.
5. To seek resources that will enable the achievement of the above aims.

Audience:

- Engineering accreditation and competence assessment bodies, particularly those of WFEO member states that are not part of the IEA.
- WFEO national members, particularly those of states that do not have engineering accreditation or competence assessment bodies.
- National governments, particularly those of states that do not have engineering accreditation or competence assessment bodies.
- Donors and United Nations bodies, including multilateral and bilateral aid donors, foundations and corporates.
- General audiences, such website visitors interested in examples of need cases for accreditation or competence assessment systems.

Approach:

1. Preparation of and agreement on this Memorandum of Understanding on the development of a Memorandum of Agreement on co-operation in the accreditation and competence assessment sectors.
2. Development and approval of a Memorandum of Agreement or formal partnership agreement between WFEO and IEA. This would include definition of roles for WFEO and IEA.
3. A joint information and advocacy campaign – mainly through WFEO communications, volunteers and events.
4. Joint fundraising activities for capacity building costs such as for travel, stipends, workshops and meetings etc.
5. If fundraising is successful, the launch of a joint project on capacity building.

Possible Metrics:

1. Inclusion of the partnership in WFEO and IEA strategic plans.
2. Number of joint WFEO and IEA meetings held each year.
3. Number of interactions between IEA and WFEO volunteers with the key audiences.
4. Number of joint fundraising bids submitted.
5. Metrics relating to the funded joint project if fundraising is successful e.g.: number of prospective members or enquiries about IEA membership or national developments commenced.

Timeline:

By April 2014: Agreement on the Memorandum of Understanding for development co-operation by IEA and WFEO.

In April 2014: WFEO approval for a formal partnership that builds on the WFEO mobility policy of September 2009 and reflects current WFEO priorities, the forthcoming WFEO Abuja Declaration and the WFEO strategy review.

By June 2014: Development of formal Memorandum of Agreement or partnership agreement for draft to be tabled for the IEA Meetings.

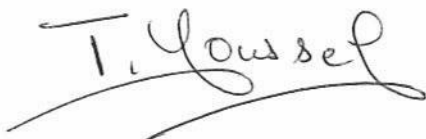
By November 2014: Joint development of campaign materials.

By November 2014: Target for securing funds for a joint project on capacity building.

In November 2014: Review of progress of Memorandum of Agreement activities and of fundraising.

In November 2014: Possible campaign launch and joint project launch at the World Engineering Conference on Sustainable Infrastructure conference in Abuja to go alongside the launch of the WFEO Abuja Declaration.

Signatories:



Date: 8th April 2014

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