



## **WORLD FEDERATION OF ENGINEERING ORGANIZATIONS FÉDÉRATION MONDIALE DES ORGANISATIONS D'INGÉNIEURS**

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### **CECB REPORT TO THE WFEO GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2022**

The Committee on Engineering Capacity Building's (CECB) Strategic Plan was confirmed in May 2021. The Strategic Plan document has since been widely shared to members of the CECB. Though the Committee started late, as well as the COVID-19 induced challenges, reasonable ground has been covered in the short time to date.

- 20 members have been recruited so far and Institutions from the four regions, namely Asia, Africa, Americas and Europe are in the process of nominating members to CECB.
- The STC has sent requests to all the regions to nominate the Vice Chairpersons/ Vice Presidents to the Committee. Each of those nominated will run with each of the established themes.
- The Committee is currently working closely with FAEO to start some capacity building projects in Africa, such as the water infrastructure project for Covid-19 prevention. This involves a training project for professional bodies that need to give capacity to their Municipalities in the training of their staff in maintenance of water infrastructure. This will go a long way to improve water availability, some water tapes in Africa have run dry for many years.
- To this end, a pilot project was identified and domiciled in South Africa. The Committee facilitated collaboration between the Engineering Council of South Africa and FAEO who worked together to provide training to a selected local authority (Ugu District), in capacity building for water infrastructure maintenance. The project was a huge success and Stellenbosch University played a pivotal role in the said project.
- The other project that the CECB is working on in Africa is the digital transformation in Africa. The digitalization project will eventually cover all the other regions as well.
- Since these projects only started recently, not much has been achieved so far but concept notes have been developed. Training on digital skills will be critical and require partners.

- The 3rd project being pursued by the Committee is the establishment of Staff Colleges in partnership with FAEO. A pilot project will be running in two countries, namely Rwanda and Zimbabwe for training in the courses defined for Africa. A needs assessment will be undertaken to identify people to come for training. The trainers will initially come from India but others will be invited from the other regions to benefit from enriched diversity.
- The Committee was invited to attend and participate at the Indian Engineering Congress which took place on the 26th -28th December 2021. Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions during that time, the Chairman (Eng M Manuhwa) attended the congress virtually
- The Committee submitted a report to the WFEO biannual report on the oncoming projects the Committee will be undertaking in 2022. More projects will be added to the list and these will be published by WFEO in March 2022.
- A newsletter will be launched during the first quarter of 2022 and the news content will be sought from the various Regional Vice Chairpersons. The intention is to at least publish a newsletter on a quarterly basis.
- The STC is emphasizing the importance of the Committee and the need to plan for the 2022 activities and to always be gender sensitive and to ensure sustainability in all that the Committee sets out to do.
- An online platform (compendium) will be established for the benefit of members and stakeholders. It is the intention of the Committee to run webinars (at least one per quarter) on capacity building and to facilitate Continuous Professional Development programs. This will benefit both the developing and developed regions.
- To that end, a webinar was hosted on the 28<sup>th</sup> February, with a topic **“Building Better Engineering Capacity: The Role of Disruptive Technologies To Achieve The SDGs”**  
The webinar was graced by the President of WFEO, Professor Gong Ke who provided a pre-recorded Welcome Address which was well received by those that attended. The President of FAEO President also delivered incisive opening remarks  
The presenters included the Chairman of CECB, Eng Martin Manuhwa and Professor Askwar Hilonga, who both presented very good papers on the impact of Disruptive Technologies towards the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- **One of the key events for the year 2022 will be the Africa Asia Pacific Engineering Alliance conference which is scheduled for August 2022, in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.** Zimbabwe was looking forward to, willing and able to host such an important conference to be held in August 2022.

- The conference will be hosted by CECB and the Committee is of the hope that such a key event will be attended by the WFEO, FAEO, Heads of States, Universities, Engineering Alliances and engineering professionals from the world over
- The Committee has held two meetings, one on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021 as well as 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022 followed by the Webinar to celebrate the [World Engineering Day 2022](#) on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022.