



Committee on Engineering Capacity Building

WORLD FEDERATION OF ENGINEERING ORGANISATIONS

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To: Executive Board
World Federation of Engineering Organizations

Subject: Report of the Committee on Engineering Capacity Building

1. Introduction

The following report will outline the activities the Committee has been involved in since the April 2012 Executive Board meeting, reflect on some of the difficulties that it has experienced to date and provide insight as to the developments that are being worked on for the next six months.

2. Committee and Members

The encouragement of broader participation is an ongoing activity so as to ensure that the Committee gets input from as broad a range of global organisations as possible. Efforts have been made both through the WFEO Head Office as well as directly so as to attempt to at least establish Regional entry points, however, it would appear that organisations may be focused on other activities leading to little capacity to participate in the Capacity Building Committee. Further attempts at inviting participation will be made at the in-person Committee Meeting scheduled for 17 September 2012 in Ljubjana, Slovenia. The current member list is attached as **Annexure 1** of this report.

3. Detailed budget, sources of funds and requests of WFEO allocation

The budget for 2012 has been attached as **Annexure 2**. This budget is essentially the same as tabled previously. We are however in the process of reviewing this and considering additional funding sources to make provision for unbudgeted items.

The Engineering Council of South Africa has earmarked specific funds to be available to support its membership drive and to facilitate meetings in South Africa as well as in Slovenia. We have also decided to embark on some projects, for which no initial budgetary provision had been made, details of which are contained in Section 4 of this report. Furthermore, in response to a request for further hardcopies of the 2010 Capacity Building Guideline from the WFEO Head Office, we submitted an estimate of costs for printing, shipping and handling and are awaiting further direction. It was the opinion of the Committee, since this was also an unbudgeted item and owing to the fact that we are finding ourselves in a position where we have already committed funds for another unbudgeted item, that it would not be possible to absorb these costs. The Committee will of course take care of all administration relating to this process, at no additional cost.

4. Report on the Committee website and committee section on the WFEO website

- a. The Engineering Council of South Africa has an active website and a link is being established specifically to enable a web-based facility for posting and accessing a Compendium of Guidelines emanating from the overall works as published in the 2010 Capacity Building Guideline. It is the intention to develop specific main topics related to Capacity Building and have a facility available where participants are invited to submit papers, ideas and initiatives in electronic format which will then be either available for download or where affiliated organisations opt for retaining information as part of their own intellectual property, links will be established directly with their websites. We had hoped to have this website active by now, however we incurred delays in waiting for a response from the Kuwait Society of Engineers (despite several attempts on our part at following up on this undertaking), who had originally pledged their support for this development and had undertaken to provide the resources for this exercise. To this end we have embarked on initiating and driving this process locally despite the fact that no budgetary provision had originally been made. We have finalised the scope of work and appointed a developer and we anticipate being able to do a live demonstration of the web-based compendium of the Capacity Building Guideline at our Committee Meeting in Slovenia in September 2012.
- b. No further significant updates have been made on the WFEO Website. A review is being done in order to ensure that new information is posted as soon as access to the website is restored following notification sent out regarding the website administration.

5. Strategic action plans & projects

The Committee have been focused on three main areas since the tabling of the previous feedback report, namely :

- a. Following up on the co-operation between UNESCO and the CECB, however we have noted that no new specific person had been allocated to co-ordinate communications between the CECB and UNESCO as was relayed by the UNESCO Office subsequent to our meeting in April 2012 in Paris. We have in the interim continued to communicate with Ms. R Sigamoney as the acting co-ordinator from UNESCO;
- b. Participating in the Team that is being established to undertake a project to establish the "Numbers & Needs" in the area of Engineering Capacity in the SADC Regions of Africa. The current participants in the process include Ourselves as the WFEO – CECB, UNESCO and The South African National Department of Science and Technology. This project had first been mooted a few years ago through Mr. T Marjoram during his term at UNESCO, but had not been developed further at the time. It would appear that through the recent UNESCO Africa Initiative, being driven by Ms. G Kalonji, there is a strong possibility of this project proceeding with a view to establishing this as a pilot framework which may be utilised for the remainder of the continent. This initiative could be used as a catalyst for promoting overall co-operation between the various Regional bodies which collectively make up the African Federation of Engineering Organisations (AFEO);
- c. Development of the web-based Compendium as an evolution of the 2010 Capacity Building Guideline. Once this facility is active, we have no doubt that we will be able to grow participation in the activities of this Committee albeit by way of encouraging electronic input from the various global

organisations which may be viewed and utilised elsewhere, where such information is deemed to be relevant.

6. Plans for the organisation of events

The Committee will be having its first in-person meeting in Ljubljana in Slovenia on 17 September 2012. With the support of the WFEO President, recognising the cross-cutting nature of this Committee, we welcome attendance to our meeting by all members of other Committees.

7. Plans for face-to-face meetings before or at the General Assembly in 2013

The limited responsiveness from Regional Entities has not made it possible at this stage to establish Regional Vice Presidents and Project Co-ordinators. Further attempts at this will be made during the sessions in Slovenia in September 2012.

In the interim, however, the Local Committee have held meetings and will continue to do so as per the original meeting schedule as attached as per CECB Calendar 2012 (**Annexure 3**). We have also attached the Broad Action Plan 2012 (**Annexure 4**) to this report.