



# World Federation of Engineering Organizations Fédération Mondiale des Organisations d'Ingénieurs

## WFEO President's Inauguration Speech (Jorge Spitalnik)

Distinguished members of the WFEO Executive Council and of the Japanese Engineering Organizations, eminent Members of WFEO and of the WECC 2015 Organizing Committee, esteemed guests and colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

I am much honored to assume the Presidency of WFEO. I want to express my deep gratitude to all of you for the trust and confidence you have placed in me and the contributions I will bring towards the betterment of WFEO.

Starting from the relevant WFEO worldwide recognition my predecessors brought to our Federation, we will build on their work, prioritizing actions to implementing moves towards WFEO's Vision, reinforcing the development and communication procedures of the Organization; applying the programs from the Strategic Plan just approved by the consensus of all parties of our Organization; enhancing the role of the Standing Technical Committees, and increasing membership.

Based on the actions taken in the last few years, WFEO has established and assured its worldwide international presence by actively engaging in programs for sustainable development, climate change, and disaster risk reduction, with UN agencies and other intergovernmental organizations. Nowadays, WFEO is recognized as a NGO valued partner by ECOSOC - UN Economic and Social Council, UNDESA - UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNDP –UN Development Programme, UNESCO – UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNIDO – UN Industrial Development Organization, UNEP – UN Environment Programme, UNFCCC – UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNISDR – UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, IAEA – International Atomic Energy Agency and WMO – World Meteorological Organization among the UN family, and by intergovernmental and international organizations like The World Bank, OECD – Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, IEA – International Engineering Alliance and ISO – International Organization for Standardization..

We want to achieve a status in which WFEO will be recognized by governments, intergovernmental organizations, international NGOs and the public in general as a respected and reliable source of advice and guidance on improvement of policies for human wellbeing and environment management.

In this position, as a reference source of advice and guidance on engineering and technology matters, we will raise the interest of all existing engineering organizations, so that they will want to join us and be part of the crucial tasks WFEO is performing.

Organizations and individuals worldwide, recognizing our UN successes, may want to cooperate with WFEO by becoming partners or members.

Like all big organizations, WFEO has development and communication issues, making it necessary to emphasize budget controls and prudent management of reserves.

We will also engage national and international members through frequent contacts, with planned schedules and agendas and make full use of the website improvements and other new approaches.

My attendance as President at WFEO events will be integrated into this communication strategy.

From WFEO's international leadership position we will contribute in promoting and establishing conditions for mobility of National Members' engineers. We will work with WFEO members to promote their initiatives for the mobility of engineering professionals. This will demonstrate WFEO's obligation and relevance to National Members and International Engineering Organizations.

Our Standing Technical Committees' key role will be stressed. They are the core of the engineering and technological expertise of WFEO. The quality of their activities and products underpin the global recognition of WFEO's worth and reputation. We will maintain support for our STCs to meet their performance goals and action plans. The new processes for monitoring and assisting STCs will also help them to continue improving their output.

Based on the unique expertise of the STCs, WFEO's contribution has been of great value to international organizations. This will open the door for STCs' delegates to participate in many of the global gatherings of these international organizations.

We are living in unprecedented and challenging times of development of new areas of engineering related to human health, like biological engineering, nano-technologies and body rehabilitation robotics.

We must prepare for natural generational changes, with many of the major contributors at all levels coming to the end of their careers. I exhort national members to look for new talented people and introduce them to WFEO to get involved in established and newly developed engineering applications.

In conclusion, I reiterate that it is my aim to have WFEO providing the engineering dimension to discussions on policies and investment, and offering engineering information, perspective, advice and review on issues of concern to the public and the engineering professionals.

WFEO will speak with one voice for the worldwide engineering community and be the worldwide reference body on Engineering and Technological matters.

Thank you all for your kind attention.