

WFEO Executive Council
Lima, December 9th

President Activity Report

The following actions give a summary of activities performed since the WFEO Kyoto meeting where I assumed the Presidency of our Federation.

In December 2015, I participated in the Paris COP 21 and produced a report on this event that can be seen on the website.

I also participated in the COP 21 Parallel Event organized by WFEO Committee on Engineering and the Environment and was involved in the publication of the Parallel Event Declaration also on our website.

From December 2015 to March 2016, I was involved in the selection of the new executive director that ended with the recruitment of Jacques de Méreuil.

In March 2016, I presided the executive board meeting in Paris and attended the other parallel meetings.

On this occasion, I met with UNESCO Assistant Director for Natural Sciences, Mrs. Flavia Schlegel, signed the renewal of the UNESCO/WFEO Framework Agreement and discussed with her about the joint Africa Engineering Week. We set up an Agreement with UNESCO creating WFEO representatives' group to organize such event every year (Chairs of STCs of Africa and FAEO nominated delegate).

I also seized this opportunity to meet with the President and other officials of our national member for France (IESF) for them to resume relations with WFEO. As you may know, IESF returned to the Federation.

In April 2016, I spent 11 days in China, where I met with several Chinese engineering organizations and academia including CAST, our national member. I attended the 20th Pacific Basin Nuclear Conference and presented a paper on Nuclear Energy in the Context of the COP-21 Climate Change Agreement.

I also participated in the CAST Engineering Education Accreditation International Symposium and presented a paper on WFEO and Engineering Education Accreditation.

I gave two lectures, one at the Tsinghua University, entitled "Engineers' Contribution for Implementing of the Sustainable Development Goals" and the other at Nanjing Hehai University entitled "The Role of WFEO in Promoting Engineers' Mobility".

I visited Jiangsu Institute of Engineering (JIE) and Jiangsu Institute of Industry Innovation. In the meeting with JIE, I discussed with its President, Prof. Ouyang Pingkai, about their cooperation in supporting the engineers' community.

In July 2016, I was involved in the organization in Brasilia of the International Conference on New Engineering Approaches for the Supply of Sustainable Water and Energy together with UNESCO, OAS, UPADI, CONFEA and FEBRAE and contributed to the launch of the

Brasilia Declaration. I managed to have UNESCO Director General give an inaugural speech at this conference presented by the UNESCO representative in Brasilia.

In October 2016, I represented WFEO at the CAETS conference in London. On this occasion, I met with Royal Academy of Engineering officers to discuss the Africa Catalyst Project and also with our UK member ICE to discuss the preparation of the celebration of the WFEO 50th Anniversary in London in 2018.

In September 2016, I represented WFEO at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference in Vienna and seized the opportunity to meet with VDI to discuss on a possible resuming of the relations between them and WFEO.

In October 2016, I represented WFEO at the UPADI Assembly in Panama.

In November 2016, I was in Lisbon to attend the CONFEA/OEP workshop on the application of the agreement between both organizations for their members' professional practice in both countries and to represent WFEO at the 80-years OEP anniversary celebration ceremonies.

Before coming to the WFEO meetings, I attended on December 2nd the International Forum on Accreditation and Professional Licensing of Engineers in Latin America and the Caribbean, here in Lima, and made an invited introductory speech on WFEO position on international systems for engineering education accreditation (see attachment).

Thank you

Attachment

INITIATIVES FOR INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION OF
ENGINEERING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Jorge Spitalnik (WFEO President)

Engineering develops methods and systems based on scientific knowledge, economy principles and appraisal of the state of the art of available technology to improve society's quality of life. This mission, aiming at increasing the life standards of the population, in essence implies that the Engineer practices his/her profession with a clear social dimension. In this respect, it can be said that the Engineering professional is able to exercise his/her profession within any society's existential contexts.

It is therefore of crucial importance to ensure a certain uniformity of content and deepness in the academic education and training of the engineer as well as his/her critical thinking to allow a professional practice akin with the quality standards in existence in other countries. Consequently, a global mobility of Engineering professionals will be feasible.

WFEO has a natural authority to contribute in promoting and establishing conditions for mobility of WFEO National Members' engineers, in different regions of the world. This is an important activity for the creation of international Engineering partnerships.

WFEO believes in an engineering profession of well-qualified, up-to-date engineers, working ethically and responding to the needs of their clients who may have little or no engineering knowledge.

WFEO's way to achieve this objective has been to sign cooperation agreements with organizations that have multi-lateral agreements, like the International Engineering Alliance (IEA). Currently, the IEA's Washington Accord recognizes the substantial equivalency of programs accredited by Engineers Australia, Engineers Canada, Institute of Engineering Education Taiwan, The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, Engineers Ireland, Japan Accreditation Board for Engineering Education; Accreditation Board for Engineering Education of Korea; Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand; Institution of Engineers Singapore; Engineering Council of South Africa; Engineering Council UK; U.S. Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology; Board of Engineers, Malaysia; Association for Evaluation and Accreditation of Engineering Programs of Turkey; Association for Engineering Education of Russia; Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka; National Board of Accreditation India and China Association for Science and Technology.

In 2015, WFEO signed a Cooperation Agreement with IEA, built on an earlier Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), aiming at establishing multilateral systems of accreditation and evaluation of professional competence globally. This Agreement highlights the importance of setting up global standards for qualifications accreditation and professional capacity of the engineer, leading to the development of national structures for Engineering accreditation and the establishment of national bodies for assessing the professional competence of their engineers. The current Washington Accord membership, involving countries with top Engineering Schools and Universities, attests the high level of standards being applied by IEA for recognizing equivalence of accreditation of educational programs. The fact that such activity is successfully performed by an organization managed by Engineering communities, independently of government influence, in keeping with the essence of the profession is in line with the essential concept of entrusting the profession to educate and police its practitioners. This is the cornerstone of international recognition, which must be jealously guarded.

In fact, accreditation and competence assessment by international organizations allows licensing systems of different countries to be compared and to identify those that have similar quality standards for their engineers' professional practice. But, it does not by itself lead to automatically allowing those professionals practice in the other country. This is the responsibility of the national organization with this function that makes such organization being accountable to Society for assuring good practice by their licensed engineers and, therefore, it is the national system that will have to respond on the proficiency of a licensed engineer involved in lawsuits for professional malpractice.

WFEO will support initiatives leading to the enhancement of programs to promote the global mobility of Engineering professionals. Programs for accreditation, like the FIEAP accreditation review, must ensure that the engineering educational standards they will apply are of similar level of quality to those being used by other organizations like IEA or EUR-ACE. In this respect, it is relevant to quote a resolution approved by UPADI, the Pan American Union of Engineers, at their annual meeting, last month in Panama, recommending its member organizations to adopt international systems of engineering educational accreditation that have substantially equivalent evaluation standards.

Without similar standards of quality, we might end up with a two-tier system of accredited Engineers: those with A standard and those with B standard. And this, WFEO will not be able to support.

2nd December 2016