



Committee on Engineering Capacity Building

WORLD FEDERATION OF ENGINEERING ORGANIZATIONS

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Minutes of the Standing Committee on Engineering Capacity Building (CECB) of the World Federation of Engineering Organisations (WFEO) held on Monday 17th September 2012 at 09:00.

1. Notice of Meeting

Notice of meeting having been circulated electronically was taken as read.

2. Welcome

After a brief video clip Chris Campbell welcomed all members present, and in particular those attending the CECB for the first time. He made special mention of Prof Ales Breznikar who was representing Slovenia.

3. Attendance & Apologies

Present: C.Campbell (South Africa), T.McKune (South Africa), M.Pillay (South Africa), M.Manuhwa (Zimbabwe), B.Rafemoyo (Zimbabwe), A.Al-Amri (UAE), A.Sambo (USA), H.Coleman (UK), J.Buckson (Ghana), R. Costa de Silva (Brasil), D.Cinton (USA), A.Breznikar (Slovenia), S.Grossman (USA), J.Psalia (Malta), A.Ogyiri (Ghana), S.Ampadu (Ghana), N.Trivedi (USA), J.Riungu (Kenya), K.Kwakwa (Ghana), M.Sanio (USA), B.Grear (Australia), F.Thabet (Tunisia).

Apologies: A.Clelland (New Zealand), D. Botha (South Africa),

4. Confirmation of the notes of the meeting of 4th September 2011 held in Geneva

The notes of the meeting were confirmed as a fair reflection of the meeting. The following issues were clarified;

- 4.1. The outstanding financial issues relating to the guidebook had been resolved.
- 4.2. D.Clinton would double check that the copyright releases were in the possession of WFEO in Paris.
- 4.3. All copies of the original batch of Guidebooks had been distributed.

5. Matters Arising

5.1. **Capacity Building Guidebook on web**

A pdf version of the guidebook (original English version) was currently available on the SAICE web site (www.saice.org) but would be posted on the WFEO website under the CECB page so it was more readily accessible to members, and other interested parties. **(C.Campbell & M.Pillay to action)**

5.2. Capacity Building Guidebook Chinese translation

The Chinese translation had been completed, and was also available on the SAICE website, and would be posted on the CECB WFEO site in due course. A statement would need to be made that the “official” version was the English version, and any other translations were for the benefit of users only. *(C.Campbell & M.Pillay to action)*

5.3. Capacity Building Guidebook French translation

This had not been attended to as yet. J.Buckson (*Ghana*) and H.Coleman (*UK*) volunteered to attend to this. Secretariat to send pdf version to enable this process to take place. *(T.McKune, J.Buckson & H.Coleman to action)*

5.4. Capacity Building Guidebook Spanish translation

This had not been attended to as yet. R.da Costa e Silva (*Brasil*) volunteered to attend to this. Secretariat to send pdf version to enable this process to take place. *(T.McKune & R da Costa e Silva to action)*

A suggestion was made that the guidebook should also be translated into Arabic. A.Al-Amri volunteered to attend to this. Secretariat to send pdf version to enable this process to take place. *(T.McKune & A.Al-Amri to action)*

5.5. Marketing Plan

A draft marketing plan had been prepared by M.Pillay and presented to the Chair. It was agreed that marketing opportunities related to the Guidebook and the work of the committee in general needs to be exploited. *(C.Campbell & O.Frank to action)*

5.6. Transfer of CECB Committee to new host country

The committee noted that the transition from the USA to SA had gone smoothly. D.Cinton and M.Sanio were thanked in particular for ensuring all records and documentation were made available to the new ECSA Steering Committee. C.Campbell gave members a brief overview of the way in which the task of hosting the committee had been handled to date.

5.7. On-Line Compendium

Good progress has been made with the development of the online compendium. Members were shown the on-line version via a link, and also the proposed functionality. The compendium developers had also been instructed to build in an e-commerce functionality for future commercial use.

The success of the compendium would be dependent on it being populated by members and other contributors, and an editorial panel to review material would be established. It was agreed that the link should be circulated to members so further input could be received during the development phase. *(T.McKune to action)*

It was also suggested that a hierarchy of access depending on CECB membership status could be developed to enable different levels of access to the compendium.

S.Grossman complimented the steering committee with the progress made on the compendium and stated this was a major milestone for the committee.

5.8. YE/FL Standing Committee

The Executive Committee had approved the establishment of a YE/FL Standing Committee – the CECB congratulates the younger members of CECB for this achievement and wish them well with their further endeavours.

6. New Business

6.1. Printing of additional copies of guidebook.

A request had been received from the WFEO Head Office to obtain a quote for the printing of additional copies of the Guidebook. These quotes had been submitted but there had been no further developments. The committee agreed that the cost of additional copies would need to be funded by WFEO as the CECB did not have access to funds of its own.

6.2. Steering Committee Minutes.

As previously indicated the minutes of the steering committee meetings held over the past year had been circulated to CECB members prior to the meeting. The minutes would also be posted on the CECB WFEO website. *(C.Campbell & T.McKune to action)*

6.3. Regional Representation.

As the CECB only met once per annum, it has been suggested that a regional structure be established whereby interested parties could communicate within a common time zone on Capacity Building matters, and relay these discussions to the CECB secretariat for distribution to all members. One teleconference had been held between South Africa and New Zealand, and despite the time differences had been very useful.

Regional representatives willing to facilitate this process were to contact the secretariat so these developments could be monitored.

6.4. WEC 2013 CECB Workshop

In order to ensure that best practices are shared, it was suggested that a workshop be arranged during the 2013 WEC at which speakers could be identified who could present Capacity Building projects/initiatives and ideas for CECB and other interested parties benefit. It was agreed that an approach be made to the conference organisers to see whether a time slot can be allocated for this during WEC2013. *(T.McKune to action)*

6.5. Teaching Capacity

J.Riungu raised a serious problem of the lack of teaching capacity in Kenya. There was general consensus that this was a universal problem, and that

generally the teaching profession was no longer as an attractive career as what it had been several years ago.

The ideal was for young engineering practitioners to spend some time in industry getting a feel for the profession, and then to return to teach. Due to the relatively poor salaries of academics in most countries, this did not happen as Universities were unable to compete for the available talent pool.

CECB members were asked to share any novel ideas on how to address this problem with the CECB secretariat so these could be circulated to members.
(CECB members to action)

6.6. Standing Committee Integration

It was pointed out that a number of the Standing Committees at WFEO had originated from the CECB, but had since not really maintained their links with the CECB. There was a need for STC's to ensure horizontal integration, particularly with regard to capacity building issues so as not to reinvent the wheel.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next in-person CECB meeting would take place during WEC 2013 which was due to be held in Singapore from 7th – 13th September 2013. The Chairman hoped that those present and many other CECB members would be able to attend and further strengthen the work of the committee.

8. Closure

There being no further business to discuss, the Chair thanked the members for their participation and declared the meeting closed at 12:10.

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