

Report of the WFEO Committee on Capacity Building

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The WFEO Committee on Capacity Building (CCB) has been very active since the Executive Board Meeting in February, 2008.

The CCB supported the UPADI, WFEO, and WEC Meeting in Brasilia November 29-December 5, 2008. At the UPADI Opening Plenary and Technical Council meetings, ASCE President Wayne Klotz, ASME President Tom Barlow, NSPE President Sam Grossman and Foreign Secretary of the US National Academy of Engineering, George Bugliarello, participated on key plenary panels.

Presentations arranged by CCB during the UPADI Plenary included:

- Physical Integration: Vision and Concepts – Wayne Klotz, ASCE President
- Megacities – Dr. George Bugliarello, Foreign Secretary US National Academy
- The Future of Urban and Regional Mobility – Miriam Heller, ASCE SD Committee
- Continuing and Distance Education – Tom Barlow, ASME President
- Engineering Without Borders – Sam Grossman, NSPE President
- Energy: Integration and Cooperation Models – Kris Neilsen, Pegasus Global
- Free Trade Agreements; NAFTA and MERCOSUL – Reginald Vachon, Chair, Joint NSPE/ASME/ASCE Taskforce

The WFEO-CCB co-organized and actively participated in several jointly sponsored technical meetings.

With ASCE International Activities Committee support under the leadership of Cliff Schexnayder and ASME member Bill Wepfer, Department Head of Mechanical Engineering at Georgia Tech, and Chair UPADI Education Committee, a powerful one-day Capacity Building/Continuing Education/Professional Development program was delivered at WEC 2008 on December 4, 2008: **Opportunities in Engineering Capacity Building through Professional Societies: Engineering Education, Continuing Education, and Licensing.**

The Session was opened by the US Chair of the WFEO Capacity Building Committee Dan Clinton with presentations by Andrew Cleland, IPENZ, New Zealand, and Dawie Botha, SAICE, South Africa, describing the “Capacity Development Guide Book;” Meg Van Sciver, Engineers Without Borders; Victor Miranda, Belize; and Lina Sergie, Syria.

The panel was followed by a session – Continuing Education and Professional Development moderated by: Reginald Vachon, Chair Joint NSPE/ASME/ASCE UPADI Taskforce with presentations by Wayne Klotz, ASCE President, and Tom Barlow, ASME President.

The third session, moderated by Dan Clinton, included Daniel Marcek, Engineering for the Americas; Marcelo De la Rosa, Vice President Louis Berger Group; and Dr. Peter Greenwood, Engineers Australia, on global accreditation and “Licensure: a Benefit or Challenge for Developing Countries.”

The final panel – Bridging the Gap between Industry and Academia, moderated by Reginald Vachon, Chair Joint NSPE/ASME/ASCE UPADI Taskforce had presentations by Sam Grossman, NSPE President, and Dr. Janaka Ruwanpura, Civil Engineering Department, University of Calgary, Canada.

The day long session was well attended (approximately 100 attendees) with good Q and A participation following each of the presentations. We received numerous compliments on the caliber of the program, the speakers, and the overall content.

The Capacity Building Committee met and developed a skeletal Strategic Plan for the next three years. The Strategic Plan included:

1. Develop and promote the Capacity Building Guidebook.
 - a. Define best practices to build capacity.
 - b. Identify needs of regions and special situations.
 - c. Define available funding for capacity building.
2. Create consistent language to define capacity building within funding structures and with decision makers.
3. Build strategic partnerships.
4. Provide a home to existing programs.
5. Communicate to others within WFEO what CCB is doing.

The Capacity Building Guide Book workshop, under the leadership of Dawie Botha and Andrew Cleland was able to develop a skeleton of the Guide Book. The draft skeleton has the following chapters.

1. Introduction
2. Principles of Capacity Building
3. Defining Needs and Desires in Participating Communities
4. Influencing/Defining Public Policy
5. Developing Educational Programs
6. Achieving Significant Participation in Education
7. Building Networks and Support Systems
8. Technical and Business Standards
9. Project Execution through Lifecycle
10. Gaining and Using External Funding
11. Special Issues

A rough draft was completed after Christmas and has been distributed with chapters assigned for fleshing out in the next several months. We plan to have an edited version of the first draft ready by the end of April for circulation to other participants and contributors. From there we plan to edit and have a final version ready for roll out and promotion in Kuwait.

Dan Clinton, Chair of the Capacity Building Committee will participate in the UNESCO Commission on Sustainability Session 17 in New York City the first two weeks in May along with Barry Grear, President; Darrel Danyluk, CEE; Jorge Spitalnik, CE; Mike Sanio, ASCE; and Mike Michaud, ASME. The theme of CSD-17 is “Sustainability in Agriculture: Words into Action.” We are investigating having a 2-hour side event on Capacity Building (what it means, opportunities, barriers, solution).