



Committee on Engineering Capacity Building

WORLD FEDERATION OF ENGINEERING ORGANISATIONS

CHRISTOPHER CAMPBELL Pr.Eng.

Private Bag X691, Bruma, Johannesburg, South Africa, 2026
Phone: +27 (0) 11-607-9500 Mobile: +27 (0) 83-276-3852 FAX: +27 (0) 622-9295
E-mail: christopher.campbell@infraset.com

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To: Executive Board
World Federation of Engineering Organizations

Subject: Report of the Committee on Engineering Capacity Building

1. Introduction

The handover of the Chairmanship of the Committee on Engineering Capacity Building from the USA to South Africa took place without any difficulty. Records maintained by the former Chair were transferred to an electronic repository established by South Africa as early as 9 September 2011 following confirmation at the General Assembly that it would be hosting the Committee over the next four years. The new Committee Chair immediately assumed the responsibility for further distribution of copies of the "Capacity Building Guideline 2010" to as many member countries present during the closing of the General Assembly. The Committee Chair, having been afforded the opportunity to present a high level strategy for Building Engineering Capacity at the General Assembly, subsequently, on request, shared this presentation with all parties that expressed an interest in receiving a copy. In keeping with its mandate the new Committee Chair has commenced with various tasks which form the focus of the Committee, feedback on which is contained in this report.

2. Committee and Members

A kick –off meeting was held in Johannesburg on 17 October 2011 to establish a local Steering Committee and at the same time to decide on the Committee Secretary who will be responsible for or co-ordination and communication. A detail list of names, contact details, affiliation to National Membership and roles are included in **Annexure 1** of this report. Most of the South Africa based participants in the previous Committee were present and a number of short term actions were agreed as a starting point for the Committee, all of which are included in the separate sub-headings of this report. As part of a drive to recruit members we are in the process of :

1. Sending a formal letter of thanks to the former Chair of the Committee coupled with an invitation for continued participation in this Committee;
2. Sending a letter of invitation to all Regional Organisations, such as FEANI, UPADI, AFEO and the like, to provide contact details of a representative to the Committee for participation in the activities of the Committee. This invitation will be open to any persons from Member Organisations who are not of necessity part of a Regional Organisation;
3. Consolidating names of previous participants who expressed an interest in continued participation at the General Assembly in Geneva in 2011 onto the member list;
4. Appointment of vice chairs, regional vice presidents once we have received confirmation of participation;

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

The budget for 2012 has been attached as **Annexure 2**.

The Engineering Council of South Africa has earmarked specific funds to be available to support the above activities. However, further support is being secured through the South African Department of Science and Technology which has worked closely with UNESCO in the past and continues to do so. Although there is no specific need for a WFEO allocation, the availability of any specific allocation from WFEO will of course assist in accelerating activities and facilitating more frequent face to face meetings

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

1. The Engineering Council of South Africa has an active website and a link will be established for the Capacity Building Committee for access to information and information sharing for all committee members;
2. The committee has begun posting feedback on the relevant section of the WFEO website and will be liaising with the Executive Director to update any other recent developments and announcements regarding the new Chair and Committee;

5. Strategic action plans & projects

Notwithstanding delays in confirming broader participation, the Local Steering Committee has proceeded to review the long term action plans established by the former Chair and noting that some of the plans had already been actioned has agreed on the following :

1. To establish links with the Kuwait Society of Engineers to pursue the establishment of an e-book purchasing facility for future copies of the Capacity Building Guideline 2010;
2. To continue to develop a marketing strategy for the Guidebook to include media releases, presentation materials, potential translation into other languages (possibly through UNESCO)
 - a. Consider how to publicize the book – media included
 - b. Develop a business plan on selling the book
 - c. Prepare an on line version that can be downloaded
3. To develop an online database – compendium of case studies, programs and initiatives related to capacity building in engineering;

The Committee has set a further objective of setting up a global video/tele-conference in April 2012, with participants, once these have been confirmed, so that it may set a platform for discussing the future strategy of the Committee, both over the short term up to the date of the meeting of the STC in Slovenia in September 2012 and over the long term. Once the Committee has been fully established, the projects will be split up and each project will have a specific project co-ordinator who will then become part of the International Steering Committee.

6. Plans for the organisation of events

In view of the fact that this is the beginning of the term of Committee, no immediate plans have been formulated for Capacity Building specific events. The Committee will however participate in local and other events where relevant until such time that any decision is made for the Committee to arrange a specific event.

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

The Committee plans to arrange face to face meetings at least quarterly using video-conferencing facilities and a minimum once a year in-person meeting. However, the International Steering Committee which will comprise of the Chair, the Secretary, Regional Vice Presidents and Project Co-ordinators will convene teleconference meetings every two months for feedback and progress monitoring. The envisaged CECB Calendar 2012 (**Annexure 3**) together with a Broad Action Plan 2012 (**Annexure 4**) have been attached to this report.