



**World Federation of Engineering Organizations
Standing Committee on Engineering and the Environment
2008-2011**

Teleconference Meeting No. 1

**Thursday June 19, 2008
0400 GMT**

Minutes

1.0 TIME AND PLACE

A teleconference of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations Committee on Engineering and the Environment (CEE) was held on June 19, 2008 beginning at 0400 GMT.

2.0 ATTENDANCE

CEE Chair: D. (Darrel) Danyluk, P.Eng.

CEE Members:

- M. (Mohammad Sadek) – Syria
- T. (Tony) Marjoram – UNESCO
- S. (Spryros) Papagrigoriou – Greece
- N. (Nguyen) Son Hung – Japan
- C. (Charles) Willmot – New Zealand
- B. (Babagana) Mohammed – United Kingdom
- D. (Donald) Schutz – United States of America
- A. (Al) Grant - United States of America
- M. (Michael) Sanio - United States of America

CEE Secretary: M. (Marie) Carter, P.Eng.

3.0 Call to order and approval of agenda

D. Danyluk called the meeting to order and asked everyone to introduce themselves. The agenda was approved with no changes.

4.0 Update on UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)

D. Danyluk provided a brief review of the United Nation meetings, both Commission of Sustainable Development held in New York in May and the United Nations Framework



Convention on Climate Change that he has attended on behalf of WFEO. The last meeting of UNFCCC was held in Bonn, Germany where he represented WFEO on the scientific group. The discussions focussed on “means to reach emissions targets.

The Committee for Sustainable Development meet annually and make their decisions on a two-year cycle. They have a number of special groups represented including women, indigenous people, business, science and other non-governmental organizations. The engineering voice was not at the table initially and there was no consideration toward the implementation of policies. When the engineering voice was heard, it captured a lot of attention as the importance of infrastructure was recognized. The topics discussed were poverty, food, and agriculture (irrigation and water).

WFEO has an opportunity to speak at the meetings of all countries and can meet with the individual country delegates. There is also the opportunity for the CEE to develop policy statements, share them with WFEO country members, who in turn take them to their own country delegates to bring to the floor negotiating table at the UN or to echo other country presentations.

In addition, there is the opportunity to host a side event. This is an event that is two hours in length where presentations can be made. It attracts groups of 30 to 50 people.

T. Marjoram indicated that it would be useful to prepare and to submit written briefs for these meetings as they become part of the written record.

5.0 WFEO Membership List

D. Danyluk reviewed the membership list and asked that corrections be forwarded to the secretariat, Lynn.tremblay@engineerscanada.ca. The list includes committee chairs (one representative from the country working on the particular stream), corresponding members (provide input by way of email through the committee chairs) and subject experts for each theme outlined in the strategic plan. The experts will be both global and regional to ensure that we have the best available expertise for each topic. Members were asked to identify the theme that they would like to participate in and notify the secretariat, and to suggest others who could be approached to participate.

6.0 WFEO-CEE Strategic Plan

The intent of the strategic plan is to put ideas forward for the committee that can be achieved, or delivered on, in the four-year time frame. D. Danyluk asked the committee if the six theme areas are enough or too many and if the approach is one that the committee is willing to take. All agreed that the number of themes and the approach is satisfactory.



6.1 Sporting Events

S. Papagrigoriou indicated that he had submitted an outline report with the subjects that will be included in the work. He requested help from the committee members for membership on his group. Would like representatives from China, U.K., Australia, Italy, Norway, and the U.S.A. Canada will be putting a member forward to help with this work. Michael Sanio of ASCE of the U.S.A. will provide a name and D. Danyluk will contact Paul Jowitt of the U.K. to identify a member. It is anticipated that a workshop will be organized and the report will be available within a two year time frame.

6.2 Disaster Risk Management

N. Son Hung reported that there are two components to this theme. One for water related disaster and one for earthquake disasters. He would like to have 30 members from 15 countries. A letter from the WFEO president and D. Danyluk is an effective method for inviting members. They will be having a meeting of the task group on September 10 and 11, 2008. B. Gear will participate in the symposium. They will have an interim report for the meeting of WFEO in December, 2008.

6.3 Infrastructure in Developing Countries

Commander Poothia was not available for the call. D. Danyluk reported that we had received an initial theme paper on infrastructure in developing countries. It is focused primarily on the needs in India and should be broadened to include other developing countries. This initiative came from the WFEO meetings in Delhi in India where, at a technical conference, B. Gear challenged the group to move the work toward implementation from the research papers that have been done to date. We will need to have representatives from both the developed world as well and the developing countries. Tony Marjoram indicated the document as it existed was a good document and that he was seeking approval to use it through UNESCO.

6.4 Environment and Sustainability Practice Guidelines

The intent of this activity is to have a document that can be agreed to by the CEE committee members as well as be adopted by all of the WFEO members at the General Assembly in Kuwait in 2010. The intent is to use existing documents and broaden them for use worldwide. The document will be reviewed within the CEE prior to circulating it more broadly. We have volunteers from Canada to work on this initiative. We would like to add five or six members from other countries. The intent is to have the first draft available for the face-to-face meeting of the group in Brasilia in December. Volunteers were requested.

S. Papagrigoriou suggested that we need to involve young engineers in the work. There should be a way to motivate them to become involved in this work. The subject of environment and sustainability should be a draw for them to participate. T. Marjoram



suggested that we contact Engineers for a Sustainable World and Engineers Without Borders. These groups have an existing network that could be used.

6.5 Sustainable Development

This work is related to the Commission on Sustainable Development of the UN. P. Jowitt is preparing documentation on sustainable development to start to focus forward for the CSD. WFEO has a committee that is led by Jorge Spitalnik and includes the Standing Committee Chairs for environment, Capacity Building and Comtech as well as the President addressing CSD overall.

6.6 Climate Change Adaptation

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change has an initiative called the Nairobi Work Program to look at the adaptation needs to react to the changing climate. In Canada we have just completed the first national assessment of the vulnerability of infrastructure to the changing environment. This work was sponsored by the Canadian government who have asked D. Danyluk to present this work at the last two UNFCCC meetings. The intent of this theme is to identify projects that can be put into packages that can be presented at the side events. There could also be handouts made available.

7.0 **WFEO-CEE Face-to-Face Meeting – WEC 2008**

D. Danyluk asked which of the committee members would be available for the meeting in Brasilia. Most of the members will be in attendance. C. Willmot will not be able to attend. The meeting will be from 09h00 to noon on Monday, December 1 and from 14h00 to 16h30 on December 2, 2008. The draft preliminary has been distributed. D. Danyluk asked the group to review the agenda and provide comments to the secretariat.

8.0 WFEO-CEE Newsletter Status

The committee will distribute newsletters electronically to committee members. There will also be regular updates on the WFEO site. It was suggested that the newsletter should be in a form that can be printed for distribution. C. Willmot suggested that we use this method of reducing the carbon footprint by means of electronic communications.

Helen Hume of New Zealand chairs the UN committee on adaptation under Nairobi Workplan. C. Willmot is working very closely with the Ministry of the Environment on that work and will prepare a brief one-page report on the work being done in New Zealand.

9.0 Budget

We received some funds (3000 Euros) from WFEO to support the CEE committee's communications. There will be a webinar originating in Canada and available to CEE members



in September 2008 as a pilot project to determine if it will be an effective and feasible tool to disseminate information.

Notes prepared by: Marie Carter, P.Eng.