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

**Teleconference/Webinar Meeting No. 2
Monday June 29, 2009 – 0400 GMT**

Draft Minutes

1.0 Time and Place

The second teleconference meeting of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations Committee on Engineering and the Environment (CEE) 2008-2011 was held as a combination teleconference/webinar on Monday June 29, 2009, beginning at 0400 GMT. This was the first meeting of the committee where webinar technology was combined with teleconferencing. The principle objective of the meeting was to receive mid-year progress reports from the Chair and Theme Leaders and discuss next steps as well as some administrative and communications matters.

The meeting was also a test of the webinar technology combined with teleconference audio to determine the combination an effective means of communication for meetings of this nature. D. Lapp provided a brief explanation of the webinar user interface and functional keys. There was a delay to the start of the meeting while all participants were signing into the webinar via the Internet website. He explained that it was technically **practical** for theme leaders to hold their own webinar/teleconferences using this technology supported by Engineers Canada and that there is budget available to fund such events within limits.

D. Lapp noted that the phone numbers (and possibly email addresses) for several CEE members were not correct, and that he would make efforts to obtain the right information in the near future.

2.0 Attendance

CEE Chair:	D. (Darrel) Danyluk, P.Eng.
CEE Vice-Chairs:	Engineer S. (Spryros) Papagrigoriou – Greece
CEE Past-Chair:	Engr B. (Bhagwanji) J. Vasoya - India
CEE Members:	Eng. I. (Irene) Campos Gómez – Costa Rica Engineer M. (Mounir) Ghribi - Italy

P. (Paul) Jowitt, C. Eng. – United Kingdom
T. (Tony) Marjoram, CPEng – UNESCO
B. (Babagana) Mohammed, C.Eng. – United Kingdom
Engineer A. (Arvind) Poothia - India
Engineer N. (Nguyen) Son Hung – Japan
C. (Charles) Willmot, FIPENZ – New Zealand

CEE Member
(Regrets):

CEE Secretary: D. (David) Lapp, P.Eng.

3.0 Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

Chair D. Danyluk called the meeting to order and a roll call of members present was completed. The Chair asked those present for any additions and changes to the agenda. There were three additions from the Chair:

- Item 1a. – Introduction to Webinar Technology – D. Lapp
- Item 8.4 – Kuwait Energy Congress – Student Participation Incentive
- Item 8.5 – WFEO Presidency

The agenda was approved with the additional items.

4.0 Approval of Minutes

The unapproved minutes from the in-person meeting held on December 1-2, 2008 in Brasilia, Brazil were reviewed. The following were comments and corrections received from those present:

- Page 4 – The COP-15 meeting will be held in Copenhagen not Poland as is presently written.
- Page 5 – IEI will be attending the COP-15 in Copenhagen, not Poland as is presently written. As well the dates for country-wide energy plans are the end of August 2009 (not February) and the integrated plan will be submitted in September 2009 (not July).

There were a few other minor editorial corrections. The minutes of the in person meeting teleconference were unanimously approved as amended.

Action: D. Lapp to correct the minutes and distribute the final version to CEE members as well as to WFEO. (**Secretary's Note:** The approved minutes will be posted on the WFEO website).

5.0 Business Arising and Review of Action Items

D. Lapp reported that all action items arising from the December 2008 meeting had been completed or would be discussed at this meeting with the following outstanding items:

- D. Lapp reported that the UNFCCC letter of commitment was submitted to the UNFCCC as an action pledge and presented at the Bonn Climate Change meetings in early June 2009.
- D. Lapp will contact D. Schutz to follow-up on his suggestion to contribute our information and views on environment and sustainability issues to Wikipedia.

T. Marjoram to draft a proposal for a consistent approach for WFEO-CEE members to communicate with their respective Engineers Without Borders organizations (where these exist) and noting that in some cases these organizations are not linked (or have weak links) to the international organization.

6.0 Chair's Activity Report

6.1 WFEO Executive Board Meeting – March 2009

The Chair reported that he attended the last meeting held in Paris. The following were the highlights of discussions and decisions that relate to the standing committees:

- A task group formed at the WFEO meeting in Brasilia (December 2008) to examine funding for the standing committee submitted seven recommendations that include: 1) the development of standard criteria for evaluating funding requests, 2) the requirement for financial reporting, 3) no funding for travel, 4) establish a minimum amount for operations at 1,000 euros, 5) treat all standing committees equitably but require them to submit requests for funding, 6) 30,000 euros total funding for standing committees for 2009 was confirmed and 7) that this amount would be reviewed in light of requests at the WFEO General Assembly in November 2009.
- Standing committees can have advisers who are not national representatives, in addition national members.
- MOUs have been signed with FIDIC, CAETS and INWES. The one with FIDIC is very important as it includes cooperation on work related to climate change as well as education and anti-corruption.
- A number of constitutional issues were discussed and resolutions will be presented at the 2009 General Assembly.
- Each standing committee was encouraged to use the declaration from WEC 2008 as a lobbying tool with UNESCO and other national and international organizations.
- All standing committee reports were received and will be posted on the WFEO website. There is a need for coordination between committees to avoid duplication of effort.
- There was good discussion on the proposal to create a new standing committee on Disaster Risk Management that would be chaired by Japan. The Board is recommending that DRM become a future standing committee to continue the excellent work of Dr. Ishii and his task group.
- The dates of WFEO meetings in Argentina next year were confirmed – October 16-17, 2010.
- There are 13 pages of minutes and the draft version will be attached to the minutes of this meeting.

6.2 UN Commission on Sustainable Development (UN-CSD)

D. Danyluk, along with President B. Grear, STC Energy Chair - J. Spitalnik and STC Capacity Building Chair - D. Clinton ("WFEO Task Force to the UN-CSD") participated in UN-CSD 17 meetings in New York in May 2009. A detailed report on the UN-CSD meeting from the WFEO committee is just getting completed and will be available in a few weeks.

In addition, D. Danyluk organized a side event entitled "Capacity-Building: Words Into Action: Physical, Social and Economic Infrastructure" with a focus on African and other rural sustainable development. A summary report on the side event was included in the agenda materials.

This work is part of a renewed effort for WFEO to be re-engaged with the United Nations, and began 4-5 years ago. WFEO is one of two organizations that represent the science and technology community as a Major Group to the commission. ICSU, representing the scientific community, is the other organization. Major groups are able to take part in the debates on topics that the CSD is studying. Their meetings are held twice yearly in New York – for one week in February and two weeks in May.

It was noted that the WFEO Task Force referred to above is also supported by the United States through ASCE and ASME.

The Chair reported that excellent progress has been achieved through active participation of WFEO for the past three years. There is a growing interest to seek the opinions of engineers and to partner with them on initiatives. For example, the 2009 side event was organized and delivered in partnership with other recognized groups including farmers, locals government and industry wanted to partner to deliver a strong message to the politicians that develop policies related to sustainable development and related issues.

In May 2009 the CSD commenced its next round of discussions on the topics of waste management, transport, chemicals and mining. These subjects have a strong engineering focus, and as such the ICSU agreed that WFEO take the lead role for this round on behalf of the Major Group on Science and Technology. This presents WFEO with a real opportunity to apply our expertise to the review of documents that will be created to facilitate the UN discussions.

The first year of the two year process in UN-CSD to address the topics of interest is to gather information. In the second year policy is developed.

From the UN-CSD meeting, the WFEO Task Force agreed that the CEE should work with Farmer's First – an active agency representing the farmers to the UN-CSD. There is an immediate need to secure a WFEO representative who has an agricultural engineering degree, resides in Europe and has good linkages with the agricultural community and preferably one or more of the agricultural departments in federal governments in Europe. The subjects of key interest would be the production and transport of food.

D. Danyluk requested assistance from P. Jowitt and T. Marjoram to recruit an individual in Europe. The representative would be required to review and comment on reports and attend meetings on behalf of WFEO. It was agreed that CEE should also issue a general request to WFEO member countries.

Action: CEE Secretariat to prepare and issue, on behalf of the WFEO-CEE Chair, a formal request to WFEO member countries for a European representative to work with Farmer's First on issues related to food supply and transport.

P. Jowitt noted that the Institute for Civil Engineers (ICE) will get involved in the work over the next two years and will be meeting soon with the U.K. Department of International Development to discuss water security issues.

T. Marjoram noted that raising the profile of engineering with UN-CSD is a real success story, and suggested preparing a document on how it was done to assist in promoting engineering in a broader context.

6.3 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

D. Danyluk reported that the WFEO Action Pledge on Climate Change Adaptation was tabled at the Bonn Climate Talks in June 2009 and very well received by the Nairobi Work Program.

A side event was organized and delivered in the second last time slot on the evening of Saturday June 6. As a consequence of the date/timing attendance was about half of what is seen in the day sessions. Nevertheless it was considered a good turnout and there was excellent discussion and debate on the issues related to climate change adaptation of infrastructure in newly developed and developing countries. One of the presentations from the side event was included in the agenda materials.

D. Danyluk reported that he will be attending the COP-15 in Copenhagen and asked the members present if there was any interest to attend the meeting (at their own expense). A. Poothia indicated that he will be attending on behalf of his organization and will communicate with D. Danyluk to coordinate efforts. D. Danyluk must submit a letter to the UNFCCC by late August with the list of delegates from WFEO. At the same time applications for a side event must be submitted, and there will be a high demand for slots. Hotel accommodation is being booked quickly so decisions on attendance and dates need to be made over the summer.

Action: CEE Secretariat to email members to confirm their attendance at UNFCCC COP-15 in Copenhagen as part of the WFEO delegation as well as the dates they would be attending.

A CEE Task Force on the UNFCCC was formalized and consists of the following members: D. Danyluk, T. Marjoram, P. Jowitt, A. Poothia and I. Campos. Members of the task force will indicate to D. Danyluk their intention to attend the UNFCCC COP-15 in Copenhagen, December 7-17, 2009 and/or the meetings in Bonn in June 2010. P. Jowitt indicated he was interested and available for certain dates to attend meetings or help deliver a side event. The primary purpose of the side events is technology transfer as well as raising the profile of WFEO within UNFCCC.

7.0 WFEO – CEE Newsletter Publication Schedule and Content

D. Danyluk reported that the first newsletter for WFEO-CEE was published in April 2009. It was focused on the United Nations work. It was reported that the newsletter was not on the WFEO website so the secretariat will contact the webmaster.

A publication schedule for the newsletter was included with the agenda materials. It is proposed to publish twice yearly, normally in April and October, until the end of the current mandate in 2011. Each of the six themes is asked to provide article and information for one of the newsletters. This was agreed by the theme leaders. In the next newsletter (October 2009) the 3rd WFEO-JFES-JSCE Joint International Symposium on Disaster Risk Management that will held in Fukuoka, Japan on September 3rd and will be reported and briefly introduced respectively (Drs Ishii/Nguyen).

The publication schedule, which includes deadlines for the submission of theme related articles, was approved as published.

The Secretariat will send a reminder to the theme leader approximately six months in advance of their publication deadline.

8.0 WFEO-CEE Theme Leader Progress Reports

Theme leaders had prepared PowerPoint presentations to document recent progress and to provide next steps and an outlook on activities to the end of the current mandate in 2011. These were presented live through the webinar technology.

8.1 Theme 1 – Environmental Impacts of Olympic Events

Theme Chair S. Papagrigoriou reviewed the status of the work plan presented at the Brasilia meeting and an outlook of the future tasks which will conclude with a final report. He noted there has been a limited response from Olympic countries for individuals to come forward to participate, but there have been some recent additions with help from CEE members.

The most significant new development was the convening of a meeting in Athens by the Technical Chamber of Greece on May 7-8, 2009 looking at the impact of the organization of the Olympic games in Beijing, Athens, Sydney and Barcelona. There was a wide-cross section of stakeholders that included engineers, universities, city staff and other involved organizations.

The round table discussions provided a wealth of material to use for the interim report to CEE in November 2009. The most important subject discussed was “the day after” the games end – the lasting environmental impact is the key issue. There appears to be an increased understanding of these impacts and improved standards to deal with them in many of the countries that have or will host the games.

D. Danyluk asked if there was any discussion of the carbon emission from the Olympics as this could be useful information to present at upcoming UNFCCC meetings in Copenhagen and Bonn. S. Papgrigoriou noted that there was some but it was not a main issue.

T. Marjoram suggested that a section on lessons learned and success stories with recommendations for the future be a part of the report to CEE. This was noted with the comment that a matrix of success stories and failures has been developed for the Athens Games.

A. Poothia asked if there would be information on technical innovations that he could provide to the organizers of the 2010 Commonwealth Games to be held in India. This was noted and can be part of the interim report in November 2009

8.2 Climate Change Adaptation

D. Danyluk reported that Engineers Canada received funding in April 2009 for a two-year program to continue work on assessing the vulnerability and risks of climate change impacts on physical infrastructure in Canada. He noted that one component of the program includes liaison and training in Canada and through participation at meetings and side events at UNFCCC meetings where some transfer of knowledge to other countries can be facilitated.

Costa Rica and Canada have developed a joint proposal to apply a "lite" version of the risk assessment protocol to assess infrastructure in Costa Rica as a step towards application in developing countries. This proposal has been marketed to the World Bank and formally submitted by Costa Rica to a World Bank grant program (still waiting on a response). It is also being marketed to the Canadian government who are interested to discuss possibilities for partial support. This interest will be followed up over the summer and early fall.

D. Danyluk and D. Lapp visited the World Bank on May 7 and made a couple of presentations on the risk assessment protocol and its potential application to newly developed and developing countries. The visit improved the awareness of the tool and hopefully planted the seeds for its application outside of Canada, potentially with World Bank support.

Action: Secretariat to circulate a copy of the May 7 presentations to CEE members.

P. Jowitt reported that the ICE, together with ASCE and CSCE, had jointly signed a declaration on civil engineering and climate change on June 2, 2009 at their triennial conference. The declaration covers mitigation and adaptation and specifically refers to a role for WFEO as "developing guidance documents on engineering vulnerability assessment of civil infrastructure and best engineering practice for adaptation to address those vulnerabilities will include:

- Evaluation of physical vulnerability of civil infrastructure.
- Consideration of non-monetary or intangible impacts of climate change events, including indirect impacts e.g. agricultural practices, sea level rise etc.
- Consideration of non structural adaptation measures.

This activity will be carried out through the World Federation of Engineering Organizations".
D. Danyluk reported that he had input to the document.

There was a suggestion and agreement to follow-up with other national institutions that might be willing to sign this declaration.

Action: Secretariat to send the declaration to CEE members and CEE members to investigate if their national engineering organizations might be prepared to sign on to the document.

D. Danyluk also reported that he had met with the Japanese delegation at the UNFCCC Bonn Climate Talks in June 2009 and would forward the names and contacts to Dr. Nguyen

8.3 Disaster Risk Management

Dr. Nguyen reported that the DRM is organizing its 3rd annual joint symposium on disaster risk management on September 3, 2009 in Fukuoka, Japan. A call for papers/presentations has a deadline of mid-July. So far they have secured papers and speakers from Japan, Philippines, Korea, Taiwan, Canada, Myanmar and Bangladesh. He noted that DRM is a very important subject in Myanmar.

The first three parts of the "Guideline for Water-Related Disaster Risk Management" will be released at the WFEO General Assembly in November 2009. These parts include fundamentals, floods and tsunamis. In 2010, a first report of the earthquake-related DRM will be released. D. Danyluk congratulated Dr. Ishii and Nguyen on leading the work of the DRM. It is very timely and well-related to today's concerns.

P. Jowitt mentioned there is considerable activity and interest in tsunami response in Australia and pledged to send an email contact address to Dr. Nguyen.

8.4 Sustainable Development

P. Jowitt reported that the mapping exercise to relate WFEO and WFEO-CEE activities with the sustainability initiatives at the UN was still in development.

8.5 Environment and Sustainability Practices

D. Lapp reported that Mr. R. Rettie, P.Eng. has assumed the theme leader's role on behalf of Engineers Canada. Mr. Rettie is the current chair of the Engineers Canada national committee on Environment and Sustainability. The principal task of this group is to develop an international guide on environment and sustainability principles and policies for adoption by the WFEO.

The presentation included an outline for the document and explained the process for its development and review within WFEO. The objective is to table a first draft at the WFEO-CEE meeting in November 2009. There were no comments nor objections to the process and schedule

T. Marjoram suggested the title of the document might be re-worked so that it does not just appear focused on engineers. This may limit its take-up by other stakeholders.

8.6 Infrastructure in Developing Countries

Cdr. A. Poothia reviewed activities from the fall of 2008 to the spring of 2009 in his presentation. He noted that most of the activity is India-centric and hoped to expand the effort to other countries. To this end the addition of new members from CEE countries should help the process.

Following the release of recommendations around high rise buildings in developing countries reported at the last meeting there have recommendations developed for other areas including highway development, earthquake resistant buildings, energy efficient buildings, water harvesting in new buildings (now compulsory in India). New recommendations are forthcoming in the fall on the role of civil engineering and civil aviation infrastructure in India. These are all developed from an Indian perspective so there needs to be a process to verify and adjust these for other countries and regions.

C. Willmot expressed interest in getting a copy of all of these recommendations which could be very helpful to small island states in the Pacific. IPENZ has some linkages with these states although the focus has been on setting up a registration system for engineers. Others were also interested in seeing them.

I. Campos requested that the papers and presentations from these various events be forwarded to her so that she can determine how Costa Rica can contribute. She suggested a webinar be set up to present the results and recommendations to other developing countries.

Action: Cdr Poothia to provide an electronic copy of infrastructure recommendations to the Secretariat for distribution to WFEO-CEE members.

D. Danyluk noted that a New Zealander Helen Plume is the Chair of the Nairobi Work Program within UNFCCC. One of its focuses is on climate change adaptation for Pacific small island states, so there may be some additional synergies achieved.

8.7 Assignment of CEE Members to Theme Task Groups

A preliminary table assigning each CEE member to a theme was tabled for discussion. Unless there was a specific request, the assignments were largely arbitrary. There is the flexibility for members to switch themes if they contact the secretariat (and some already have). The secretariat will notify the theme chairs if there are any additions or subtractions as these come forward.

Meanwhile it was agreed to leave it to the theme chairs to make contact with their "new" members to determine their role and participation in the work of the theme.

8.8 Theme Webinar Scheduling

D. Danyluk noted that a substantial portion of the WFEO-CEE 2009 budget (6,000 euros) was allocated for webinars. Given we are at the mid-year point, he suggested that two or three more webinars would be possible to schedule in the last half of 2009. He encouraged the theme leaders to consider holding a webinar either for a task group meeting or as a workshop similar to the one organized on climate change in October 2008.

D. Lapp noted that the webinars can be organized and paid for through the secretariat. Darrel indicated that he would contact each theme leaders to discuss possibilities.

9.0 WFEO-CEE Face-to-Face Meeting No 2 – Kuwait November 2009

The preliminary agenda for the November meeting was included with the agenda materials for this meeting. One change – the meeting will start at 9:30 a.m. not 9 am as indicated.

There were no additions or changes. Since this is a preliminary draft, it is open and subject to change in the coming months. All members were encouraged to review the agenda and are free to suggest additions or changes up to about one month before the meeting.

10.0 Other Business

10.1 International Conference on Climate Change

D. Danyluk notes that there is a commitment for the WFEO-CEE to organize an international conference in the last year of the current four-year mandate. A proposal to hold an international conference on climate change was tabled as part of the agenda materials for discussion and approval in principle by the WFEO-CEE. The three-day conference is proposed for April-May 2011 in either Calgary or Vancouver, Canada. Members will be asked to participate in the organization and/or promotion of the event through participation on committees of the organizing committee or other types of in-kind support

The WFEO-CEE secretariat will support the formation and operation of the organizing committee. The organizing committee will determine what other committees are necessary to organize the technical and social programs along with sponsorship and exhibitions.

D. Lapp explained that a formalized plan to organize this conference will be tabled at the November meeting of CEE. D. Danyluk noted however, that it was important to get the approval of the CEE to proceed now with the planning and organization, given the long lead time to organize such an event.

The members who were present gave their unanimous consent to proceed with organizing the event using the parameters presented in the proposal. (**Secretary's Note:** WFEO-CEE members who were not present at this meeting may contact the secretariat if they have any concerns or questions about the proposal and the approval to proceed).

10.2 WFEO-CEE Website Update

D. Danyluk reported that there have been some updates to the WFEO website to reflect our activities but some information is very dated/ incorrect and remains to be corrected. He pledged to work with the secretariat and WFEO Communications to ensure the updates are made as soon as possible.

He encouraged all CEE members to review the website and suggest any changes/corrections or updates to the secretariat as soon as possible and as needed.

10.3 WFEO Promotional Displays

D. Danyluk reported that UNESCO has agreed to provide funding support for transportable, promotional displays that explains the work of WFEO and UNESCO in climate change, the environment and sustainable development. He expressed thanks and appreciation to T. Marjoram for making this possible. The displays should be available by the fall of 2009.

10.4 Kuwait Energy Congress - Engaging Students

The Kuwait Society of Engineers (KSE) is holding an Alternate Energy Congress in conjunction with the WFEO General Assembly and committee meetings in November. KSE are very interested to get up to 500 students to attend and have offered substantially reduced accommodation costs, reduced airfares and waiving of registration fees as inducements. Further information is available at www.ec2009kuwait.org.

D. Danyluk encouraged everyone to promote this program to their engineering students to take advantage of the opportunity.

Action: All CEE members promote the availability of the KSE offer for student participation in the Kuwait Energy Congress in November 2009 to the engineering students in their country.

10.5 WFEO Presidency

Chair D. Danyluk informed those present of his intention to seek the position of President-Elect through a nomination to be put forward by Engineers Canada for the next election to be held at the WFEO General Assembly in November 2009.

11.0 Next Meeting and Adjournment

The Chair thanked all participants who were able to participate. He noted that the technology proved successful, and reiterated that it was available to the theme leaders to use to conduct their business with the support of the secretariat.

The next face-to-face meeting will be held in conjunction with the WFEO Assembly in Kuwait City, Kuwait, to be held from November 2-7, 2009. The full day meeting of WFEO-CEE has been scheduled for Monday November 2, 2009.

Prepared by:

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