

REPORT ON WFEO GENERAL ASSEMBLY & WORLD CONGRESS ON ENGINEERING AND DIGITAL DIVIDE, 12-19 OCTOBER 2003, TUNISIA

Reported by: Ir. Mohd. Rasid bin Osman, Ir. Assoc. Prof. Megat Johari bin Megat Mohd. Noor & Ir. Prof. Abang Abdullah bin Abang Ali

PREAMBLE

Malaysia was represented by Ir. Prof. Abang Abdullah bin Abang Ali as President of The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia at the WFEO General Assembly and World Congress while Y. Bhg. Datuk Ir. (Dr) Hj. Ahmad Zaidee bin Laidin represented FEISEAP. Y. Bhg. Academician Dato' Ir. Lee Yee Cheong attended as the new President of WFEO. Ir. Dr Judin bin Abdul Karim, Secretary of the Board of Engineers, Malaysia attended as an observer.

Y. Bhg. Dato' Ir. Keizrul bin Abdullah and his team from JPS were also present to receive a WFEO award.

During the week in Tunisia, FEIC organised its executive committee meeting and it was attended by Ir. Prof. Abang Abdullah bin Abang Ali, Ir. Assoc. Prof. Megat Johari bin Megat Mohd. Noor, Ir. Mohd. Rasid bin Osman who are FEIC executive committee members. Ir. Dr Judin bin Abdul Karim attended as an observer.

WFEO GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND WORLD CONGRESS

The WFEO General Assembly, which is the supreme governing body of the WFEO, held their biennial meeting for the year 2003 in Tunis, Tunisia after the conclusion of the World Congress on Engineering and Digital Divide.

WFEO is managed by the Executive Council, which is headed by the President. The present four standing committees of WFEO are:

- Committee on Education and Training (CET)
- Committee on Engineering and Environment (CEE)
- Committee on Technology (Com Tech)
- Committee on Information and Communication (CIC)

The role of WFEO is to serve society, and to facilitate communication and cooperation among engineering organisations and with other organisations, particularly those of the UN system and international non-governmental institutions dealing with science, engineering, technology and business. In addition, WFEO fosters peace and promotes sustainable development on a global basis as well as engineering, education and training, the exchange and sharing of technology and application ethics. WFEO brings together the developed and the developing nations for mutual benefit and facilitate relationships between governments, businesses and people.

The General Assembly commenced on October 16th after the completion of the World Congress on Engineering and Digital Divide. During the opening session of the Assembly, the outgoing President Mr. Jose Medem welcomed the delegates. The Assembly then announced the installation of the new President, Y. Bhg. Dato' Academician Ir. Lee Yee Cheong from Malaysia and four new Vice Presidents. Two new Standing Committees have been supported subject to the appropriate amendment to the constitution and endorsement by the next

general assembly in Shanghai, namely the Standing Committee on Energy and the Standing Committee on Capacity Building. Brazil shall be responsible for the former while the US shall be responsible for the latter. Both countries have indicated that they will provide full financial support for the new standing committees.

An election was conducted to appoint five new National Members from a group of seven nominated countries. The five elected new members were from Great Britain, China, Slovenia, Germany and France. The Assembly agreed that for the new applicants of WFEO, they will have to submit their applications to WFEO, and the next meeting in Shanghai will rectify their memberships.

The WFEO General Assembly continued the following day, October 17th, with a roll call of members in good standing, approval of agenda, minutes, reports from Exco Meetings, membership issues, reports by the President and the Executive Director, Finance, reports by Standing Committees and Working Groups, Strategic Plan and Action Plan 2004/2005, relations with external organisations, World Engineering Convention, Shanghai, reports by awards committee, and a presentation on virtual libraries. Y. Bhg. Dato' Academician Ir. Lee Yee Cheong announced Malaysia would be interested in taking over the Standing Committee on Information and Communication. Lebanon also expressed interest.

The World Congress on Engineering and Digital Divide under

the auspices of His Excellency President Zine Li Abidine Ben Ali was opened by Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Ghannouchi. The Congress was chaired by Mr. Kamel Ayad, President of the Commission on Information and Communication and addressed by the Director General of UNESCO, the Secretary General of ITU as the congress is part of the World Summit on Information Society under UN (Geneva, December 2003 and Tunis, November 2005) and Nobel Laureate Dr Jerome Karle apart from WFEO President Mr. Jose Medem.

Medals and awards were given during the assembly and dinner. A Malaysian team under Y. Bhg. Dato' Ir. Keizrul bin Abdullah received the Sabagh Medal of Engineering for 2003.

WFEO STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING

Prior to the General Assembly, the Standing Committees held their meeting. Ir. Prof. Abang Abdullah bin Abang Ali attended the Standing Committee on Education and Training as an observer. In that Standing Committee, the following matters were discussed or decided:

1. Report of 6th World Congress on Engineering Education 2003, Nashville by Dr Butcher and Dr Jones.
2. Hosting of WFEO CET from 1 November 2005 by Poland.
3. Capacity Building presentation by Dr Jones. The US is proposing to set up a new Standing Committee on Capacity Building after the US return to UNESCO with USD65 million monetary support, with emphasis on "Engineering for a better world". Dr Jones promised between USD200,000–500,000 annual funding for this standing committee if the WFEO General Assembly approves its formation. The US shall act as President (Chairman) of this standing committee.
4. Studies on global S&T capacity building with USD750,000 funding and to be published in Mexico City, Dec 2003 by the Academy of Sciences. Regarding fund from Rockefeller, Ford, US Foundations, Nike, etc. which are currently available, it was said in the meeting that "scientists get millions from these fund for studies but engineers never come and request."
5. 7th World Congress on Engineering Education, April/May 2006, Budapest, Hungary.
6. Entrepreneurship for Engineers in Emerging & Developing Economies by Dr B.S. Oberst. 4-Day Conference on Teaching Entrepreneurship to retain engineers to contribute to economic growth. Entrepreneurship Education for Engineers Workshop in Congress, Hungary, 2006.
7. Tasks for Plan of Action – "Special needs for engineering education in developing countries".
8. Journal "IDEAS" No. 10 & 11. To focus on "Special needs of developing countries", 2004.
9. Presentation by Prof. Xila Liu from China on Teacher to Student-centred System.
10. AOB
 - a. 15–10 May 2004, Continuing Engineering Education, Tokyo.
 - b. UNESCO Statistics Study lead by Germany to send questionnaire.
 - c. Proposal by Prof. Mitchel, France on web-based editors roundtable network for engineering education.
 - d. CET to cooperate with UNESCO.
 - e. 4th Global Congress on Engineering Education, 5–7 July 2004, Bangkok.
 - f. Engineering a better world programme.
 - g. Mobility of engineers by Mr. Hisham Shihaby, Bahrain.
 - h. Proposed activities in ASEAN region on Entrepreneurship by Ir. Prof Abang Abdullah bin Abang Ali, Dr Oberst shall contact him.
 - i. WFEO Accreditation Workshop in Kuala Lumpur; Mr. Hisham from Bahrain shall contact Ir. Prof Abang Abdullah bin Abang Ali to organise this workshop.
 - j. Next meeting to be held on 4–6 Jun 2004, in Prague.

FEIIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

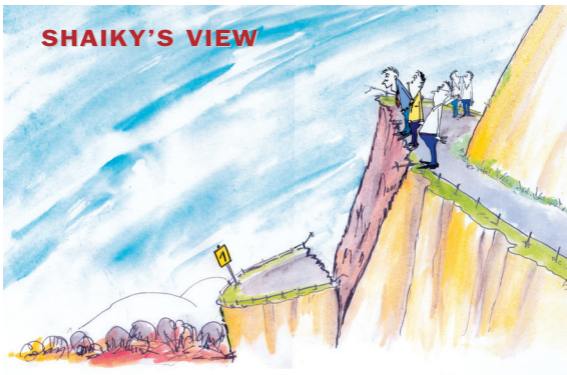
The Federation of Engineering Institution of Islamic Countries held its 17th Executive Committee Meeting during the WFEO General Assembly and World Congress week in Tunisia because most executive committee members were attending WFEO. IEM as an active member of FEIIC was represented by Ir. Prof Abang Abdullah bin Abang Ali, Assoc. Prof. Megat Johari bin Megat Mohd. Noor and Ir. Mohd. Rasid bin Osman who are executive committee members of FEIIC. The following main projects initiated by Malaysia were approved during the meeting:

1. Virtual Journal
2. International Advanced Technology Forum
3. Engineering Foresight Study
4. Engineering Knowledge Centre (Virtual).

Funding for the projects shall be obtained from member countries or international funding agencies.

Ir. Dr Judin Abdul Karim attended as an observer, representing PSDC, and it was agreed that FEIIC shall cooperate with PSDC in organising engineering business missions or forums, the first of which shall be during the next FEIIC General Assembly and Conference in Amman, Jordan, in August 2004.

SHAIKY'S VIEW



"...Well... This proves the point of our study... the most significant contributor to the downwards failures of slopes and landslides is gravity!!!"

REPORT

SUMMARY

The WFEO General Assembly and World Congress was a good opportunity to network with eminent engineers at the global level as it was attended by Presidents of National and Regional Engineering Organisations. It is also a good platform to present our views on international engineering issues as much as it is a good source of new information on developments in engineering.

However, the participation of Malaysia thus far has been in the attendance of the General Assembly only whereas most of the activities and projects are in the Standing Committees in which Malaysia has not yet played an active role.

It is recommended that Malaysia play a more active role in WFEO through the following initiatives:

1. Hosting the Standing Committee on Information and Communication, taking over from Tunisia. It was suggested that this Standing Committee be chaired by Y. Bhg. Tan Sri Dato' Ir. Mohd. Radzi bin Mansor, Chairman, Telekom Malaysia Berhad.
2. Appoint a representative in the Standing Committee on Education and Training which is to be hosted by Poland from 1st November 2005.
3. Become active in the proposed Standing Committee on Capacity Building to be approved in Shanghai in 2004 and hosted by the US.
4. Host the Entrepreneurship Conference – 4 days presentation and interaction when invited by Dr Oberst.
5. Host WFEO Accreditation Workshop when contacted by Mr. Hisham, Bahrain. ■