



IFEES

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ENGINEERING EDUCATION SOCIETIES

IFEES Report

November 24

2008

Consistent with the IFEES strategic plan, the Secretariat, in close collaboration with the Executive Committee and other volunteer leaders and members, has focused on supporting activities and initiatives that promote engineering education globally. We hope that this brief report accurately summarizes these activities.

Prepared by
IFEES Secretariat

IFEES Secretariat Report (2006 to 2008) for the ISTE/IFEES Asia Pacific Regional Conference on Engineering Education in Bhubaneswar, Orissa, India, December 19-21, 2008

We are pleased to present a narrative of the ongoing activities supported and facilitated by the IFEES Secretariat over the past two years.

Consistent with the IFEES strategic plan, the Secretariat, in close collaboration with the Executive Committee and other volunteer leaders and members, has focused on supporting activities and initiatives that promote engineering education globally.

IFEES supported and assisted in the implementation of the following activities:

1. IFEES Strategic Plan

- a. Volunteer leaders and the Secretariat gathered input from IFEES members worldwide and produced an IFEES strategic plan which was formally ratified in Cape Town. Its strategic goals and objectives were at the heart of the goals of the Second Summit.
- b. The Secretariat, in collaboration with various IFEES members, developed a survey of members' opinions regarding the value and the contributions IFEES should provide to its members.

2. Membership

- a. IFEES membership has increased to a total of 46 members of which 9 are corporate members.
- b. The IFEES Secretariat has been in close touch with engineering educators in Kazakhstan and Namibia and has supported their efforts to form a national engineering education organization. One of which, the Kazakhstan Engineering Education Society, has become an IFEES member. IFEES leadership has recently visited twelve engineering deans and their institutions in South Africa and is exploring the possibility of their membership in IFEES. IFEES is in contact with several other engineering education societies and corporations, and is actively encouraging their application for membership.

3. IFEES Summits Following the inaugural meeting in Rio de Janeiro in 2006, IFEES has held two Global Summits. The first was held in October 2007 in Istanbul, Turkey, co-located with the Sixth Global Colloquium of ASEE. IFEES' host was the Turkish Engineering Deans Council and Bogadizi University. The Second IFEES Summit was held in Cape Town in October 2008, hosted by the University of Cape Town and the African Engineering Education Society (AEES) and co-located with the Seventh ASEE Global Colloquium. The theme of the Second Summit in Cape Town was "Aligning Engineering Education Initiatives for a Knowledge Economy." The goal of the Summit was to facilitate IFEES members to develop short and long term, local and global action plans in

support of Knowledge Economies. Each of the IFEES Summits have included an IFEES Assembly of Members meeting.

4. [Indo-US Collaborative on Engineering Education \(IUCEE\)](http://www.iucee.org) www.iucee.org. Under the leadership of IUCEE Executive Director Krishna Vedula along with academic and business leaders from leading Indian and US universities, this initiative focuses on the preparation of the next generation of engineering faculty in India and the US who can educate their youth with strong technical skills as well as relevant soft skills while motivating them with a powerful vision of engineering for the well-being of the global community. After two planning workshops held in India and the US in which a combined number of almost 200 academic and business leaders from both countries participated, IUCEE established its strategic plan for dramatically increasing the number of engineering faculty in India and the US who collaborate on research and teaching and who will be able to better prepare engineers for the global economy. Significant financial resources have been raised (close to US\$1M) and the First Faculty Leadership Institute was offered on the Infosys/Mysore campus for a six weeks period during the summer in 2008. Almost 600 Indian faculty members were trained in a trainer of trainer mode by over 22 US faculty members and corporate representatives during week-long workshops covering a broad range of subjects. The turnout and quality of the Institute far exceeded all expectations and individuals in India have already assumed leadership to carry these workshops to their respective states thereby generating a momentum in India with tremendous impact. A five year strategic plan is being developed and financial support is expected from various private and public sources. A separate report will be shared with all IFEES members. Plans are to share the audio-visual (DVDs) materials recorded during the Summer Leadership Institute with IFEES members for their training purposes.

Several IFEES corporate members contributed to the evolution of the IUCEE. Besides the significant financial contributions by Desh and Jaishree Deshpande and Sudha and Narayana Murthy, additional essential resources were provided by Infosys through the use of their beautiful facilities (including conference facilities, residence, food, logistics, etc) on their Mysore campus. Other sponsors have been Hewlett Packard, Dassault Systemes, Autodesk, Mathworks, Siemens, IBM, Microsoft, Agilent/India, Meritrac, National Instruments, US embassy and the US National Academy of Engineering.

We are happy to inform you that thanks to the continued support of its sponsors, IUCEE will hold its Second Faculty Leadership Institute in a still to be determined location in India in June/July 2009.

5. [Global Engineering Deans Council \(GEDC\)](#) Former dean and current VP of the National University of Singapore (NUS) Seeram Ramakrishna provided leadership for the conceptualization of the GEDC and the implementation of its first highly successful meeting of the Founding Executive Committee of the GEDC in Paris in May 2008 under the sponsorship of Dassault Systemes and HP. Deans Cristina Amon and Hasan Mandal were elected chair and vice chair of the council. We are happy to announce that HP has approved a seed grant to provide substantial financial support for the establishment of a Global Engineering Deans Leadership Institute. Expectations are that other corporate members and foundations will support the development of this Institute. A meeting for deans was held during the Global Colloquium in Cape Town where South Africans deans hosted a discussion dinner with visiting deans; a leadership workshop is planned during the

forthcoming ASEE Engineering Deans Institute meeting in Boston in March 2009 and the Third IFEES Summit in St. Petersburg, Russia in May 2009. Part of the grant provided by HP includes the planning of the first global GEDC conference sometimes in 2010 to be held in either Asia or North America. Discussions have also been started with other IFEES corporate members about potential support for the Institute. We are pleased that LG Electronics of South Korea has also approved financial support for the Leadership Institute.

During the Member Assembly in Cape Town, IFEES members approved the revisions of the IFEES by-laws, enabling the chairperson of the GEDC to become a voting member of the IFEES Executive Committee. Dassault Systemes has produced a beautiful booklet of the Paris meeting including the Paris Declaration. Several IFEES members, such as LACCEI, have undertaken to create national and regional deans councils in places such as Central America.

6. [IFEES and Member Organizations Planning Activities](#) Planning Committees led by IFEES volunteer leaders and the Secretariat are currently planning the forthcoming ISTE/IFEES Asia/Pacific conference in Bhubaneswar, India in December 2008; the Third IFEES Summit in St. Petersburg, Russia in May 2009 to be co-located in partnership with the Russian Association for Engineering Education and its Colloquium entitled "Global Recognition in Engineering and Business Education and Profession." Discussions are being conducted to link IFEES activities in 2009 to conferences in Austin, Texas; Budapest; and other parts of the world. A committee will be formed this month to begin planning for the Fourth IFEES Summit in Singapore 2010.
7. [Global Corporate Member Council](#) Discussions were held in Cape Town to consider the possibility of forming a Global Corporate Member Council under the umbrella of IFEES. These discussions are ongoing.
8. [Student Participation](#) Engineering students constitute an important dimension of IFEES, as exemplified by a student representative serving a two-year term on the IFEES Executive Committee. Students representing SPEED and other student organizations globally have worked diligently and participated actively in both IFEES Summits. Member organizations ANFEI, LACCEI and Tau Alpha Pi have actively encouraged and supported student participation in both Summits. Hopefully other IFEES associations will encourage and support strong student participation in future IFEES Summits. We are particularly thankful to the support provided by Dassault Systemes, Infosys, HP, Autodesk and IBM for their strong encouragement and support to enable students from all parts of the world to participate in the Global Student Forums in Rio de Janeiro, Istanbul and Cape Town. Students in SPEED are actively engaged in planning the Global Student Forum for the IFEES St. Petersburg Summit as well as the ASEE Global Colloquium in Budapest in October 2009.
9. [Other IFEES Presence and Collaboration Activities](#) IFEES leaders and the Secretariat have participated actively in several meetings held by IFEES' members. IFEES leaders presented during the SEFI Deans meeting in Berlin in February 2008; the Red de Cartagena meeting in Cartagena, Colombia in October 2007; AEEA conference en Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; the IACEE and WCCEE meetings and conference in New Orleans, Atlanta and Helsinki; and SEFI, ASEE and IGIP meetings in Aalborg, Pittsburgh and Moscow in 2008. Expectations are that IFEES member organizations in all regions of the world will carry out regional or national IFEES meetings. Our experiences so far gained in co-locating events in Istanbul and Cape Town will be very useful in

forthcoming events in Bhubaneswar, St. Petersburg and other regions of the world such as Latin America, for example. It is also our hope to incorporate our colleagues in Australia, the only continent that is still not represented in IFEES. IFEES members the International Association for Continuing Engineering Education (IACEE) and ASEE have decided to co-locate their respective international meetings in Singapore in 2010 and are working closely with its host the National University of Singapore and expect to work with IFEES member the Institution of Engineers Singapore. The IFEES Executive Committee is giving serious consideration to co-locate the Fourth IFEES Summit with these partner institutions.

We are also pleased to announce that the IFEES Secretary General Hans J. Hoyer has accepted an invitation to be a keynote speaker at the forthcoming World Engineering Conference in Brasilia, Brazil in early December.

10. Other outcomes and activities

- a. Volunteer leaders developed a “value statement” that will be a guide to all future IFEES initiatives. The statement articulates values from the perspective of engineering education societies; corporations, student associations and the World Bank Institute.
- b. IFEES is proud of the relationship that it has built with the World Bank Institute. Their staff participated and gave presentations during the First and Second Summits. During the Cape Town Summit, there are conducting a five-hour workshop on the Knowledge Economy and Engineering. World Bank staff also participated and presented during the SEFI Berlin conference; the IUCEE Summer Leadership Institute on the Infosys/Mysore campus and will participate during the forthcoming Third IFEES Summit in St. Petersburg.

11. Operations and Finances

- a. Several corporate members have contributed financially to IFEES. They include HP, Infosys, Dassault Systemes, Autodesk, Mathworks. ASEE, in its capacity as the IFEES Secretariat, has contributed significant resources primarily in terms of staff salaries of several departments; travel costs; administrative expenses such as telephone, IT and printing; editing and publication of the IFEES Summit programs in Istanbul and Cape Town.
- b. A proposal was presented during the Second Summit asking corporate members to contribute annual fees effective immediately and other members effective in late 2009. No definitive agreement has so far been reached about this important issue.

12. Dissemination and Outreach

- a. The Secretariat is actively keeping the IFEES website www.ifees.net up to date and in that task is being supported by several ASEE departments. Plans are to write regular monthly or bi-monthly newsletters on IFEES activities.
- b. IFEES leaders and the Secretariat collaborated to write and present a strategic paper on IFEES. That paper, formally presented during the ASEE Annual Conference in Pittsburgh and included in ABENGE’s 2008 Conference Proceedings, has already been shared with many interested parties, and will constitute a chapter in a forthcoming book published by

UNESCO on global engineering issues. UNESCO expects to publish this book in time for the forthcoming World Engineering Conference in Brazilia in late 2008.