

GEDC in a Nutshell

The Global Engineering Deans Council (GEDC) is a key initiative of the International Federation of Engineering Education Societies (IFEES). IFEES (www.ifees.net) formed the GEDC at the IFEES Global Summit on September 30, 2007 in Istanbul, Turkey.

Currently engineering education addresses the diverse engineering manpower and innovation needs of the global economy with large and small institutions with different missions and visions. As the global pressure for engineering solutions to growing issues continue to increase, however, engineering educators must better prepare engineers for new challenges. Stakeholders are increasingly expecting engineering colleges to be leaders in innovation, and to provide solutions to society's challenges. In a global, knowledge-driven economy, technology innovation is critical to competitiveness, long-term productivity growth, and the generation of wealth. Major changes will be necessary in engineering education, research, and practice to prepare engineers for a rapidly changing world.

The key challenges faced by engineering deans, rectors, and directors of internationally recognized engineering schools include the following "how tos":

- a) deliver locally pertinent and globally relevant engineering education?
- b) make engineering more attractive to top students, who are being drawn away from science and technology disciplines, and make engineering more attractive to future generations of students?
 - Stagnant engineering enrollments in higher per capita income cities/regions/nations.
 - Growing engineering enrollments in rapidly growing economies.
- c) improve the quality of teaching and learning, and increase the output of engineers?
- d) recruit and retain quality faculty members?
- e) strengthen "capacity building," such as staffing, funding, and infrastructure in engineering schools?
- f) improve the quality of governance practices in engineering schools?

- g) develop adequate models for facilitating partnerships between engineering schools and industry (consensus on evaluation metrics to be used by stakeholders)?
- h) develop adequate funding models for engineering schools?

The GEDC is timely and critical avenue for engineering deans to learn about engineering education on a global scale. This initiative will provide world-wide forum for exchange of information, experience, challenges, and best practices in engineering education leadership. Through such exchanges, the GEDC will provide a means for engineering deans to partner in innovation, collaborate with industry and other stakeholders, and build a network that will support engineering deans' leadership role in developing regional and national policies to advance the global economy.

Vision

To enhance the capabilities of engineering deans to transform their schools in support of their societies in a globalized world.

Mission

To serve as a global network of engineering deans, and to leverage on the collective strengths, for the advancement of engineering education and research.

The GEDC has the potential to become a serious global effort with meaningful impact for engineering education. It will hold its first Executive Committee meeting on May 8 and 9, 2008 in Paris, France. The Executive Committee is made up of deans, rectors and directors of internationally recognized engineering schools.