

International Engineering Alliance

Policy on Observers at IEA Meetings

1. Background

The signatories and members of the IEA Accords and Agreements desire to increase the membership of the accords and mobility agreements, and extend their global influence in setting and maintaining leading international standards for education and practice in engineering. To meet these goals, the signatories and members welcome visitors from relevant organisations to observe the appropriate Forum sessions of IEA Meetings.

This policy identifies Observers as representatives of organisations or groups that are not already part of the IEA in some way. Under this definition, Observers include potential provisional signatories or members of the accords or mobility agreements, respectively, and national, global and regional organisations with interests in the accreditation of engineering qualifications and maintenance of international standards of engineering practice.

2. Eligible Organisations

The signatories to the IEA Accords and Agreements recognise three categories of organisation that may be invited to observe open sessions at IEA Meetings:

- a) national organisations that are **potential** signatories or members of one or more IEA Accord or Agreement;
- b) global, regional (and exceptionally, national) organisations that **explicitly** refer to using the standards operated by signatories or members of the IEA Accords and Agreements as the basis of their own policy or practice;
- c) other global, regional (and national) organisations with **interests** in accreditation of engineering qualifications, engineering education and international standards of engineering practice.

3. Invitations

As a general rule, Observers will be invited to the biennial IEA General Meetings rather than the Mid Term or Special Meetings.

Eligible Organisations in category (b) will normally be invited to observe the appropriate open sessions of **all** biennial IEA Meetings.

Invitations to Eligible Organisations in categories (a) and (c) to observe open sessions of IEA Meetings may be initiated by the organisation itself, by the IEA Governing Group, or by signatories or members of the IEA Accords and Agreements.

The Chair of the Governing Group will issue all invitations on behalf of the IEA after consideration by the Governing Group.

The IEA would expect that the representation of any Organisation would be four or less. The number of Observers will be limited to 20 at any Meeting, while ensuring participation of as many organisations as appropriate.

4. Participation

Observers will be provided with material relevant to their interest on registration for the IEA Meeting.

Observers in all categories may be invited by the Governing Group to make a short presentation (less than 10 minutes) of relevance at an appropriate open session. Observers will be encouraged to participate in the discussions and to attend informal and social parts of the IEA Meeting.

Observers may be excluded from all or parts of sessions, at the decision of the session chair.

5. Costs

Observers shall meet their own costs of attendance at the IEA Meeting, including the social events.

6. IEA Obligation

The IEA will endeavour to arrange the open sessions (such as the Forums) to maximise the benefit to Observers with interests in both education and practice standards.

Robin King
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Attachment: potential organisations in categories (b) and (c)

This list does not represent all organisations with interests that intersect with IEA. The information provided here is taken from websites during March 2012. The contents may not be up to date.

Category (b)	
World Federation of Engineering Organisations (WFEO)	Interested in educational and practice standards; has identified Washington Accord as the educational standard for professional engineers for its membership. Already receives a standing invitation to IEA Forums.
Federation of Engineering Institutions of Asia & the Pacific (FEIAP)	Has 21 members, 13 of which are involved with IEA accords and agreements. Interested in educational and practice standards; has identified Washington Accord as the educational standard for professional engineers for its membership.
Category (c)	
Fédération Internationale d'Associations Nationales d'Ingénieurs (FEANI)	Has 31 members, being national professional bodies representing engineering in European countries (including IEA signatories and members). Invited to report (via one of the latter to IEA meetings).
ASEAN Federation of Engineering	Has 10 members, 4 of which are involved with IEA accords

Organisations (AFEO)	and agreements.
Commonwealth Engineering Council (CEC)	Membership is 45 engineering institutions (11 of which are signatories and members of IEA) in 44 countries across five continents that are members of the British Commonwealth. CEC strives to strengthen the contribution of engineers to the achievement of sustainable and appropriate development solutions, and along with its members, is fully committed to the attainment of the UN Millennium Development Goals.
Pan American Union of Engineering Organizations (UPADI)	UPADI has 26 member countries in five regions of the North and South American continents and the Caribbean.
European Network for Accreditation of Engineering Education (ENAE)	The European accreditation body, awarding the EUR-ACE label in 7 countries. Already receives a standing invitation to IEA Forums.
American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE)	The world's largest national engineering education society, supports national and international conferences (including an annual Global Colloquium of Engineering Education), publications, etc.
Global Engineering Deans Council (GEDC)	Formed in 2008 under the auspices of ASEE, GEDC now has more than 110 Deans from over 25 different countries and all regions of the world as its members. GEDC seeks to serve as a global network of engineering deans, and to leverage on their collective strengths, for the advancement of engineering education and research.
International Federation of Engineering Education Societies (IFEES)	Has 50 national, regional, industrial and other members (some of which are IEA signatories and members). Through the collaboration of its member societies, IFEES works to establish effective engineering education processes of high quality around the world to assure a global supply of well-prepared engineering graduate.
European Society for Engineering Education (SEFI)	Network of higher engineering education institutions and educators in 47 Europe countries. Activities include conferences, seminars/workshops, task forces, organisation of the European Engineering Deans Conventions, publications and cooperation with other major European and international bodies.
Association of Engineering Education Societies, East Asia and the Pacific (AESEAP)	Association of national bodies and universities in the region. Holds an annual workshop or conference, usually concerned with assisting engineering education development in the emerging economies.