

## WFEO Role in developing countries

*The creation of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) resulting from a meeting convened under the auspices of UNESCO in Paris in March 1968 is timely and should be especially welcomed by developing countries. Although the extent and the exact nature of WFEO's role remains to be defined in greater detail and to evolve with time, its role as regards developing countries can be visualized in the form of assistance — direct and indirect through its members — in their struggle to raise the standard of living of their people through industrialization. The intention here is not to go into details but to point out some of the fields which, at present and in the opinion of developing countries, may appear to be pressing and therefore deserve WFEO's serious attention.*

### **WFEO as parent for member organizations**

*A limited number of developing countries have engineering associations or societies. Most of these are relatively young. WFEO assistance in any form could put them on their feet faster and on firm foundation. As for the establishment of new ones — in those countries where they do not exist — the help that may be expected of WFEO should obviously be more substantial and diversified. As an engineering organization is a very important asset for the development of a country, assistance rendered to it during its establishment and formative years would be appreciated by developing countries.*

### **WFEO as medium for contract**

*Being a central organ WFEO should serve as a link among member organizations as well as individuals in the organizations. This is best done through the conferences it is expected to organize. This may and should be supplemented by correspondences direct between member organizations or through WFEO when a need arises. One of the benefits to be derived from such contact is direct and immediate help from appropriate member organizations.*

### **WFEO as center for exchange of technical information**

*At the fantastic rate knowledge is growing it would be virtually impossible for people in the technical profession to save themselves from being obsolete in the future. A center from which technical information (literature), in easily digestible form, could be disseminated should, therefore, be a must if engineers and related professionals are to keep up with time and use their educational background and practical experience effectively. The significance of such a center is more to developing countries whose engineers are handicapped by lack of sources of information and, unlike their counterparts in industrialized countries, have no access to indigenous know-how and well established research institutions.*

### **WFEO as a means for training**

*Young or fresh graduate engineers in developing countries usually assume responsible positions, normally occupied by their counterparts in industrialized countries after some years of training and experience. This coupled with the absence of senior colleagues to whom they can look for guidance and help makes training after graduation of special significance for developing countries. Equally important is the need for periodic training of senior engineers to acquaint them with current developments and trends in their respective fields. Both these types of training should be organized in developing as well as in industrialized countries and should include on-the-job training, seminars and study tours to relevant industrial establishments, engineering work sites, research institutions and consultant organizations. Because of the very*

limited facilities and opportunities, organizing such programmes on a national scale will not be feasible for quite some time in most developing countries. Herein lies the important role that WFEO may be expected to play as regards arrangements in industrialized countries.

#### **WFEO as setter of educational standard**

To keep up with time and needs colleges and universities should, from time to time, revise their curricula and method of teaching. WFEO could serve a useful purpose here. Although countries may not be expected to strictly adhere to WFEO standard or system, its general approach could serve as a basic guide for college or university authorities. This contribution of WFEO could be of special significance during the formative years of engineering institutes or university departments in developing countries.

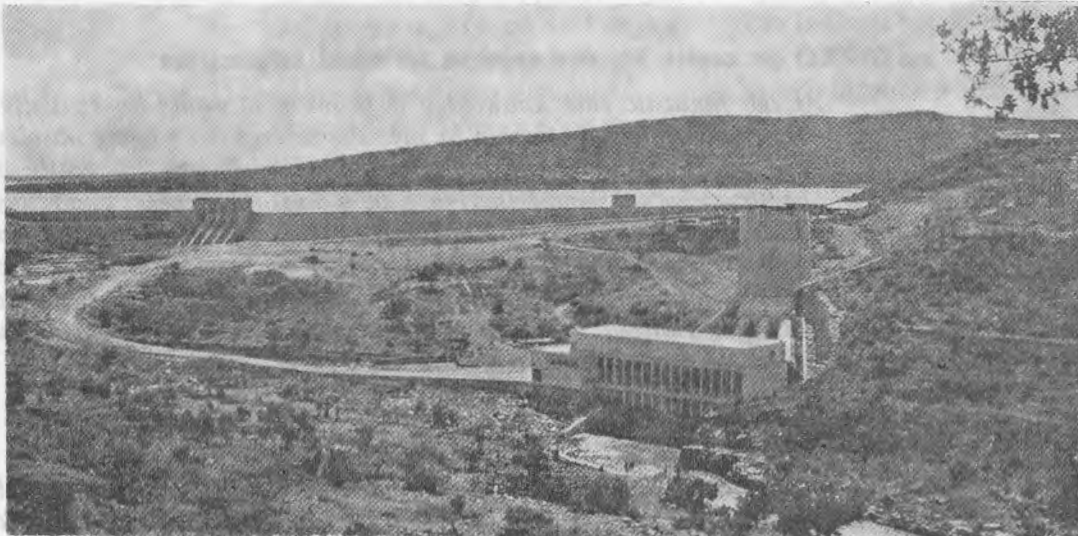
The above points, it is earnestly hoped, will be taken note of in the future deliberations and activities of WFEO. In other words WFEO should live up to the expectations of developing countries in helping them fulfil their dreams for industrialization by contributing to some of the factors prerequisite and conducive to industrial development.

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