

**1st General Assembly Meeting and Founding Event
WORLD COUNCIL OF CIVIL ENGINEERS
Mexico City, Mexico July 15th 2006**

DRAFT MINUTES

Participants:

José Medem Chairman WCCE Coordination Committee
Vassilis Economopoulos, Secretary General Association of Civil Engineers, Greece
Roberto Rexach, President Colegio de Ingenieros y Agrimensores de Puerto Rico
Efraín Echandi, Delegate Colegio de Ingenieros y Agrimensores de Puerto Rico
Cesar Nazario-Yordan, Delegate Colegio de Ingenieros y Agrimensores de Puerto Rico
Emilio Colón, Delegate Colegio de Ingenieros y Agrimensores de Puerto Rico
Osman Yilmiz, Delegate Cyprus Council of Civil Engineers,
Salih Tacan Ersumer, Delegate Cyprus Council of Civil Engineers
Andreas Constantinides, Delegate Cyprus Council of Civil Engineers
Edelmiro Rúa, President Colegio de Ingenieros de Caminos, Canales y Puertos
Pedro Rodríguez, Secretary General Colegio de Ingenieros de Caminos, Canales y Puertos
Carl August Günther, Delegate Zentralverband Deutscher Ingenieure e.V ZDI
Gülay Ozdemir, Secretary General Turkish Chamber of Civil Engineers
Oscar Saborío, President Colegio de Ingenieros Civiles de Costa Rica
Irene Campos, Secretary General Colegio de Ingenieros Civiles de Costa Rica
Damian Robledo, President Federación de Colegios de Ingenieros Civiles de la Republica Mexicana (FECIC)
Juan Uribe Longoria, Vice President FECIC
Maria Estela Rosique Valenzuela Secretary General FECIC
Hector Velasco Cantú, Honorary Member FECIC
Hector Hernández Rodríguez, Council FECIC
Octavio Calderón, Manager International Relations FECIC
Jesús Guajardo Briones, Honorary Member FECIC
Martín Manuhwa, President Zimbabwe Institution of Engineers
Carsten Ahrens, Vice President European Council of Civil Engineers
Juan Santamera, Director Escuela Técnica Superior de Caminos, Canales y Puertos
Javier Valero, Secretario Escuela Técnica Superior de Caminos, Canales y Puertos
José M. Martínez Douglas, independent civil engineer Mexico
Jette Bohsen Secretariat WCCE

Observers:

Marcos Tulio de Melo, President CONFEA, Brazil
Pedro Idelano Felicio, Member of the Board of Directors CONFEA, Brazil
Kamel Ayadi, President WFEO/FMOI

Apologies:

Sara Toppelson, Past-President International Union of Architects (UIA)

1. Opening Ceremony

The Chairman of the WCCE Coordination Committee, Prof. José Medem opened the meeting, welcoming the participants and highlighting this special meeting, urging that the floor should be open to all participants and asking for short interventions given the tight schedule of the day.

2. Welcome by host country FECIC

Damian Robledo, President of the Federación de Colegios de Ingenieros Civiles de la Republica Mexicana (FECIC) welcomed participants to this memorable event of the foundation of the World Council of Civil Engineers which was about to take place.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The Chairman asked for modifications or comments. Costa Rica made some comments.

(3.1) Decision: The Agenda was approved.

4. Presentation of organisations present

The delegate or a representative from each of the organisations present presented themselves and gave a brief introduction to their organisations, number of civil engineers represented etc.

The Chairman mentioned the letter of adhesion sent by the following civil engineering organisations that could not be present in Mexico: Portugal, Tanzania, Cuba and Africa Engineers Forum (AEF). Also Antonio Adao da Fonseca from Portugal and Murt Coleman from Ireland wishing to become members in the category of individual professionals were mentioned.

5. Approval of Minutes from meeting in Istanbul, Turkey

No comments were made on the Minutes.

(5.1) Decision: The Minutes from Istanbul, Turkey were approved.

6. Presentation of the World Council of Civil Engineers

The Chairman presented in slides a review of the WCCE, highlighting the following issues:

- Chronology
- Reasons justifying WCCE
- Objectives
- Organisation
- Membership
- Existing International and Regional engineering organisations
- Relations with other International Institutions
- Collaboration between WCCE and WFEO
- Creation and foundation of WCCE
- Conclusions

Being one of the closing remarks that WCCE pretends to facilitate a global platform where all the members are equal, regardless of their origin, their potential and economic development. Our doings will reflect core values such as trust, honesty, integrity and ethical behaviour, high standards and quality as well as warfare against corruption.

7. Verification of members.

Each organisation present was asked to state its intention of becoming a founding member of WCCE.

Of the organisations present, only three made objections:

Turkey stated their organisation will adhere today but the decision must be ratified by their Board of Directors before the end of 2006.

Costa Rica stated their intention of becoming a member subject to a number of issues to be commented in the Articles of Association.

Brazil stated their intention of becoming a member subject to the introduction of an objective in the Articles of Association.

The letters of adhesion received were mentioned again: *Ordem dos Engenheiros, Portugal* signed by Fernando Ferreira Santo; Institute of Engineers *Tanzania* on behalf of Mohamed Rafik Meghij, President and signed by Eng. SNA Kassera; Unión Nacional de Arquitectos e Ingenieros de la Construcción de *Cuba* (UNAICC), signed by Julio Salgado, President; *Africa Engineers Forum* (AEF), signed by Sam Kundishora; and finally Antonio Adao da Fonseca, Portugal and Murt Coleman, Ireland in the category of individual professionals.

8. Approval of Articles of Association

An important change introduced to the Articles of Association was mentioned: The **individual professional membership**, proposed by Emilio Colon, at the price of 20€ per year.

(8.1) Decision: Accepted as introduced

It was proposed by Vassilis Economopoulos, Greece to introduce **civil engineering students** as members as a means of promoting the profession at a reduced fee of 10€ per year.

(8.2) Decision: Emilio Colon and the Colegio, Spain will draft a proposal to be presented to the next General Assembly.

The following articles were discussed:

Article 2: It was proposed to introduce “only authorized civil engineers”. However, it was agreed that it is difficult to establish who is fully accredited to work as a civil engineer.

(8.3) Decision: The current wording was accepted, no change introduced.

Article 3: CONFEA Brazil explained that in order to be able to apply for membership, its own Articles of Association require the WCCE Articles of Association to contain the following objective:

“ Strengthen the professional exercise of Civil Engineers through high ethical standards, quality and safety in the provision of professional services”

(8.4) Decision: The objective was accepted and introduced.

Article 3: It was proposed by Costa Rica, Mexico and Puerto Rico to include the following objective: “To promote and foster public positions (posts) and positions of leadership. “

(8.5) Decision: The objective was accepted and introduced.

It was discussed if **two or more organisations from one country can be members**. One advantage is that when a National member is not active or has little money, another organisation from that country may choose to become a member .

Another possibility is the case of Cyprus, where three organisations work together and only when consensus, they vote. In case of no agreement between the parties, Cyprus refrains from voting.

Other examples can be national memberships in FEANI, which in many cases is composed of a National Committee where all engineering organisations are represented.

(8.6) Decision: It was proposed by Greece to leave the decision to the National members if more than one organisation can be a member of WCCE and also the National member will establish the internal National procedure (as an example Cyprus).

A mention in this regard shall be introduced in the by-laws.

Article 4: It was proposed to include the following words in the 1st paragraph: “ legally established in their country”.

(8.7) Decision: It was agreed to introduce the words and the text reads as follows: “ The ordinary membership of WCCE shall be open to national and international professional organisations for Civil Engineers legally established in their country, or in the case of multidisciplinary organizations, the relevant division thereof.”

Article 4 and Article 21: A need to clarify who can cast a vote and when was tabled. Which members have a vote in the Executive Committee but not in the General Assembly .

(8.8) Decision: It was agreed that this issue shall be defined clearly in the by-laws.

Article 11: The convenience of a second call for the General Assembly was discussed.

(8.9) Decision: It was agreed not to introduce a second call, given the fact that members will travel from far away so the trips will be planned with sufficient time in advance as to know beforehand if a General Assembly is quorate.

Article 17: It was proposed to pre-establish an agenda for the General Assembly, with a minimum of items to be included .

(8.10) Decision: No later than six months prior to the next General Assembly a draft agenda with a minimum of items will be circulated to members for their comments and inputs.

Article 20: The convenience of deleting the following text in the 8th paragraph was discussed “.. and to indemnify the Secretariat against all costs, charges, damages and expenses sustained by acting in good faith in the execution of duties carried out on behalf of WCCE.”

(8.11) Decision: It was agreed to delete the text and the 8th paragraph reads as follows: “ - To approve a annual budget.”

Article 24: In the second line, it was proposed to change the word “e-mail” by “electronic means”.

(8.12) Decision: It was agreed to introduce the change.

Article 31: It was proposed to change the following wording “.. at such remuneration ..” by “...according to the budget..”

(8.13) Decision: It was agreed to change the wording and the Article reads as follows: “The appointment of the Executive Director shall be according to the budget and on such conditions as the Executive Committee may think fit; ...”.

9. Approval of membership fees and budget.

The chairman explained briefly the fee calculation employed and the fact that fees must be paid in euros given that the expenses will be made in euros currently. The participants were requested to express their agreement or disagreement regarding system applied.

Participants agreed to the system but not to the results of applying the system. It was proposed that a wider range of GDP scales should be calculated.

(9.1) Decision: Secretariat will recalculate fees according to wider range of GDP scales.

A first proposal from Secretariat below. Enclosed please find new fees calculated according to this GDP scale.

More than	18.000 €	100% fee
Between	15.000€ and 18.000€	50% of fee
Between	12.500€ and 15.000€	40% of fee
Between	10.000€ and 12.500€	35% of fee
Between	7.500€ and 10.000 €	30% of fee
Between	5.000€ and 7.500€	25% of fee

Between	2.500€ and 5.000€	20% of fee
Less than	2.500€	5% of fee

Furthermore it was discussed when **to pay the annual fees**. It was convened that members not in good standing will not be able to vote at the General Assembly. Edelmiro Rúa, President of the Colegio de Ingenieros de Caminos, Canales y Puertos, Spain highlighted that the Colegio will underwrite WCCE's administrative expenses until a reasonable budget is in place also considering that in 2006 the budget will be zero.

(9.2) Decision: For the first payment, it was agreed to pay 1,5 times the annual fee and the payment period ends on 31 January 2007. This will cover fee for 2006 and for 2007.

The payment for the following period - 2008 – will be convened at the General Assembly in summer 2007.

10. Proposals for Standing Committees

The chairman outlined briefly the guidelines for the Standing Committees. The SCs project the images of the organisation around the world and must act in line with the policy of the organisation. The ideal would be to establish one SC and not any more on each continent represented in WCCE. Issues of SCs must previously be approved by the General Assembly and has to be related to civil engineering and attractive to study. It is important that the SCs establish contact and become involved in other organisations, such as UN agencies.

The host country pays for the expenses (budget neutral to WCCE budget) and should propose 3 names to the Executive Committee which will decide on who should chair the SC and hence become automatically vice president of WCCE. A strong commitment is needed from the host country, as travel expenses etc are costly. It is also desirable to have a balanced membership (representatives from all continents) in the SCs.

The SC shall report on a regular basis to the Executive Committee on activity, goals reached etc. The Executive Committee is the ultimate responsible for coordinating the work of the SC and will monitor progress closely.

When choosing an area of study, it is essential to take a look at other larger organisations, such as WFEO/FMOI and be very selective in order not to duplicate areas of interest.

The chairman proposes the following areas of study for SCs: Water issue; Natural disaster; Ethics in Engineering (anti-corruption) and Education and asks the floor for proposals.

Possibilities for various SCs were widely discussed. The following three were accepted by the participants but the second and the third SC due to be confirmed by the host country as well as a draft plan, including Purpose, Principal Activities, Organisation, Communication and Financing must be presented before end of 2006.

Puerto Rico proposes a **Standing Committee on Construction** with the following principal activities:

1. Establish a forum for discussion of construction related topics through industry organisations, construction companies and civil engineers.

2. Promote uniform building codes, standard specifications and model contracting instruments
3. Promote the use of Alternative Dispute resolution for construction contracts
4. Promote the use of technology and technology transfer.

Zimbabwe proposes a Standing Committee on Education, Training and Capacity Building.

Turkey proposes a Standing Committee on Natural Disaster.

(10.1) Decision: The proposal for a Standing Committee on Construction hosted by Puerto Rico was accepted. Emilio Colon will chair the SC and therefore become vice president of WCCE.

(10.2) Decision: The proposal for a Standing Committee on Education, Training and Capacity Building by Zimbabwe was accepted. Martin Manuhwa will chair the SC and therefore become vice president of WCCE.

However, still to be confirmed by host country Zimbabwe as well as a draft plan to be presented before end 2006

(10.3) Decision: The proposal for a Standing Committee on Natural Disaster hosted by Turkey was accepted. Gülay Ozdemir will chair the SC and therefore become vice president of WCCE.

However, still to be confirmed by host country Turkey as well as a draft plan to be presented before end 2006.

11. Functioning of WCCE

Headquarters:

(11.1) Decision: the proposal to establish headquarter of WCCE at the premises of the *Colegio de Ingenieros de Caminos, Canales y Puertos on calle Almagro 42, 28010 Madrid Spain* was accepted.

Appointment of Executive Director:

(11.2) Decision: The candidature of *Mrs Jette Bohsen* was accepted.

Election of Executive Committee:

(11.3) Decision: *Prof José Medem* was elected first WCCE President by acclamation. No voting took place.

(11.4) Decision: By virtue of chairing Standing Committees, the following persons hold the post of Vice Presidents: *Emilio Colon (Puerto Rico), Martín Manuhwa (Zimbabwe) and Gülay Ozdemir (Turkey)* the latter pending to be confirmed.

- (11.5) **Decision: The candidature for Treasurer presented by *Vassilis Economopoulos (Greece)* was accepted.**
- (11.6) **Decision: Elected National Representatives**
- AMERICAS: *Damian Robledo, México***
- AFRICA: *Mohammed Rafik Meghij, Tanzania***
- EUROPE: *Edelmiro Rúa, Spain***
- (11.7) **Decision: Elected International Representative European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE): *Carsten Ahrens***
- (11.8) **Decision: Elected Associate members representatives: It was agreed to postpone the election of representatives from the various categories of Associate members till next General Assembly in 2007.**
- (11.9) **Decision: It was agreed that until 31 December 2007, any organisation can adhere as funding member in his category.**

12. Miscellaneous

It was requested not to make use of flags during the WCCE meetings.

- (12.1) **Decision: It was agreed not to make use of flags during the WCCE meetings**

13. Date and venue of next meeting

- (13.1) **Decision: A proposal by Zimbabwe to host the general Assembly end June, beginning July 2007 at the Victoria Falls, was accepted. Exact dates are requested urgently from host country.**

It was proposed to organize a Regional African Congress in connection with the General Assembly, in order to help the host country cover costs.

14. Closing ceremony

Prof. José Medem stated the importance of WCCE's close collaboration with other international organisations, such as WFEO/FMOI. He thanked Kamel Ayadi for being present as an observer and affirmed his willingness to fulfil what had been proposed by the participants during this first General Assembly of the World Council.

The meeting was closed by José Medem, who thanked all the participants for their presence and thanked again the host, Damian Robledo, President of FECIC for the brilliant organisation of both the previous Congress and the meeting of the WCCE.

J. Bohsen. August 3rd, 2006.