

PROGRESS BY COLLABORATION - THE NEED FOR A FEDERATION OF TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTIONS

By

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and
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The General Mission Statement of the Institution of Engineers of Papua New Guinea

"The Institution is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life of the people of Papua New Guinea by responsible and creative application of engineering"

To the Community, the Mission of the Institution is as follows:

- Advance the practice of engineering in the interests of safety, well being and the quality of life of members of the community.
- Promote an engineering management and practice that will ensure sustainable development of the environment.
- Assure the community of the quality of the engineering profession by the continuous process of accreditation of qualifications and monitoring the competency standards of the profession.

To the Members, the Mission of the Institution is as follows:

- Determine and encourage high technical and ethical standards.
- Sustain standards with ethics and discipline.
- Facilitate the acquisition and sharing of knowledge.
- Represent the interest of members.

Other professional institutions within the Country have similar missions. I would like to take the opportunity today to investigate the extent to which we, as members of technical, professional institutions have achieved our Mission. I want to present to you for your consideration some ways and means by which we can improve our mission to the Community and to our Members. Further, I request your feedback on how we as kindred professionals can cooperate and develop our institutions. Let me present the situation with respect to the Institution of Engineers of Papua New Guinea. (See Table One)

From the above discussion it is clear that our major problems to serving the Community and our members are;

- Limited resources.
- Limited influence in policy making.

Proposal for a Federation of Technology Institutions

From the above discussion it is clear that our major problems to serving the community and our members are limited resources and lack of influence in policy making. The Institution of Engineers (Australia) has over 60,000 members serving a population of 18 million (1 member for 300 people). IEPNG has less than 1000 members serving a population of 4.6 million people (1 member for 4,600 people) I have been told that each of the other technical, professional institution has a lesser number of members.

At a meeting convened by me at Unitech on 18 June, a proposal in principle to form a Federation of Technology Institutions, subject to approval by the respective institutions, was unanimously approved. The meeting was attended by Professor R. Milani - Chairman, Board of Architects, Mr. S. Bannerman - President, PNG Institute of Valuers and Land Administrators, Mr. Luther Sipison and Dr. Yaip Telue. Mr. George Kipping, President (PNG Institute of Builders) and Mr. John W. Andrew, President (PNG Institute of Architects) have also indicated their agreement in principle to the proposal. Operational details of the Federation are given in Table 2.

SUCCESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF MISSION STATEMENT OF IEPNG - TABLE 1

Item	Mission statement	Achievements & Comments
1.	Improve safety, well being and quality of life of Community	Enactment of Engineers Registration Act. Structural registration. Control of work permits. Poverty alleviation programme Major problem: Limited resources.
2	Promote sustainable development	Fairly limited. Needs to develop better communication strategies and pro-active participation in promoting transparent administration and government. Major problem: Limited resources and limited influence in national policy making.
3	Accreditation of qualifications and monitoring the competency standards of the profession	Recognition by Washington Accord in progress. Accreditation of Unitech qualifications in progress. Competency standards monitored by ERB and Structural Registration. Limited resources a major hindrance for application of all provisions in ERA.
4	High technical and ethical standards Sustain standards with ethics and discipline.	Graduate Development Plan and Continuing Professional Development Plan progressing well. Technician training needs development. Conferences and seminars of acceptable standard in NCD and Lae. Needs further development of branch activities. Students Chapter and support to Unitech and Lae Tech needs development. Newsletter acceptable but needs improvement. Journal needs to be revived. Library and other IT facilities to members is fairly limited. Application of ethical and disciplinary procedures: Must improve. Primary problem is limited financial resources.
5	Represent the interest of members	Development of an Industrial Chapter acceptable to Institution however IEPNG will not participate. Personal member services such as discounted travel, insurance, financial needs development.

**THE FEDERATION OF TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTIONS
OPERATIONAL DETAILS - TABLE 2**

Item	Operation	Comments
1	Federation of Technology Institutions of Papua New Guinea be formed comprising IEPNG, Institute of Architects, Institute of Builders, Institute of Land Valuers and Administrators and the Association of Surveyors.	At present it is best to limit the number of stakeholders however any strong claims to membership may be considered.
2	Purpose of the Federation is to improve the efficiency of operation of the member institutions in their service to the community and their members.	Services at the initial stage may include joint publication of journals and newsletters, professional development programs, administrative services, library services and administrative services in a purpose built Technology House. Future services may include representations and negotiations at national levels on policy making, industrial/ safety issues etc for the benefit of the community and the members.
3	A Technology House to be established for the operation of the Federation and all the member institutions.	<p><i>Specification for the Technology House</i> Building for the Technology House to consist of the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobby, reception, waiting area and rest room for users. • Open plan office for 10 administrative staff. • Conference Hall for 50 participants and 2 Meeting rooms each with capacity for 20 participants per room in one open plan area and movable partitions for extension of Conference Hall, • Computer Room with 25 computers on a LAN with email and internet facilities. • Small print room for photo copying, fast duplicating machine, storage of short course materials and office stationary, • Library for 5000 books and journals and 1000 video tapes on display, storage space for 25,000 back-issues of journals and newspapers, Books issue area and Reading Room for 20 visitors. • A Board Room for 15 participants, • 6 executive offices, 1 for members of each of the institution. • Small kitchen for preparing refreshments and sandwiches, lunch room for 20 people and outdoor function area to accommodate 50 people. • Fully furnished including air conditioning, back-up power and water.

**THE FEDERATION OF TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTIONS
OPERATIONAL DETAILS - TABLE 2 (Ctd)**

Item	Operation	Comments
4	Each member institution to have equal share capital. Federation shall be managed by a Board with one representative from each member institution and a Chairman elected by the Board. It will operate as a non-profit making body.	
5	The Board will appoint a CEO to manage the daily operations.	For the time being the CEO for IEPNG will act as the CEO for the Federation.
6	Cost of operation of the House and the Federation will be a charge on the participating institutions.	Expenses will be charged on a non-profit making basis while the Federation will pay at an agreed rate for services rendered by the participating institutions on a pro-rata basis.
7	Plans for future progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Articles of Association for the Federation has been prepared. • Donation of land in NCD for Technology House being negotiated. • Aid agencies to be approached for funding. Initial draft of submission for AusAid Incentive Fund being prepared. • Support and recommendation by members, employers, Government Departments and sister institutions
8	Request to Congress participants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support on FORM ONE for the proposal by completing the form being circulated or on the additional form at the reception desk. • Offer of assistance, to be indicated in FORM TWO (being circulated or in the form available at the reception desk), for the project. Assistance for example could include approach to obtain official recommendations from private contractors, consultants, Government Department, Ministers or others. • Assistance to obtain additional sponsors for the establishment of Technology House, contribution to the library with specialist journals, donation of furniture, and equipment. • Willingness to participate in the activities of the Working Party.

**THE FEDERATION OF TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTIONS
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Item	Operation	Comments
9	Capital cost of project	Initial, crude estimate for the project including procurement of land (assuming land to be freely donated), legal costs, construction of the Technology House, equipment and furniture, establishment of Library and back-up services is estimated to be Kina 3,800,000.
10	Sponsorship	Even limited sponsorships to reflect the approval of interested organizations will be useful to demonstrate the support for the project to Aid donors. Sponsors to be appropriately recognised as approved by the Board.
11	Contact	For further information, please contact the President of your Institution or Dr.V.M.Puvanachandran, Department of Civil Engineering, Unitech PMB, Lae (Tel: 4734602/ 21, FAX: 473 4633, Email: vpuvanachandran@civil.unitech.ac.pg)