

*ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGISTS'
MOBILITY FORUM*

AGREEMENT

**To establish and maintain an
ETMF International Register of
Engineering Technologists**

13 JUNE 2003

DEFINITION

For the purposes of this Agreement, and any future Rules and Procedures made under this Agreement, engineering technology academic programs are defined as the programs through which practitioners normally satisfy the academic requirements for the engineering roles currently known amongst the initial signatories as:

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| • Engineering Technologist | Australia |
| • Certified Engineering or Applied Science Technologist | Canada |
| • Associate Member of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers | Hong Kong China |
| • Associate Engineer | Ireland |
| • Engineering Technologist | New Zealand |
| • Professional Engineering Technologist | South Africa |
| • Incorporated Engineer | United Kingdom |

The term "engineering technologist" is used throughout this agreement to refer to practitioners engaged in any or all of the above roles.

1 PREAMBLE

As a result of an agreement by the Sydney Accord signatories to explore mutual recognition for experienced engineering technologists, representatives of the engineering profession in each of the signatories to the Sydney Accord met in Sydney in November 1999, and Thornybush South Africa in June 2001.

The participants in these meetings, having exchanged information on, and made a preliminary assessment of, their respective processes, policies and procedures for granting recognition to experienced engineering technologists, concluded that these were sufficiently comparable to justify further examination. They agreed on the broad principles of a framework which might enable progress towards removing artificial barriers to the free movement and practice of engineering technologists amongst their countries. An agreement was reached on the principles and outline processes by which the substantial equivalence in competence of experienced engineering technologists could be established. This Agreement is known as the Engineering Technologist Mobility Forum Memorandum of Understanding (ETMF MOU)

At their meeting on 25 June 2001, the Sydney Accord signatories established a forum, to be known as the Engineering Technologists Mobility Forum (ETMF), through which they, as the representatives of the organisations in their respective countries or territories, would:

- (1) develop, monitor, maintain and promote mutually acceptable standards and criteria for facilitating the cross-border mobility of experienced engineering technologists;
- (2) seek to gain a greater understanding of the existing barriers to mobility and to develop and promote strategies to help governments and licensing authorities manage those barriers in an effective and non-discriminatory manner;
- (3) encourage the relevant governments and licensing authorities to adopt and implement mutual mobility procedures consistent with the standards and practices recommended by the signatories to such agreements as may be established by and through the ETMF;
- (4) identify, and encourage the implementation of, best practice for the preparation and assessment of engineering technologists intending to practice internationally at the professional level; and

- (5) continue mutual monitoring and information exchange by whatever means are considered most appropriate, including:
 - (a) regular communication and sharing of information concerning assessment procedures, criteria, systems, manuals, publications and lists of recognised practitioners;
 - (b) invitations to observe the operation of the procedures of other participants; and
 - (c) invitations to observe meetings of any boards and/or commissions responsible for implementing key aspects of these procedures, and relevant meetings of the governing bodies of the participants.

At a meeting held at Thornybush in South Africa in June 2001, the participants agreed to recommend that the organisations which they represented consider becoming signatories to a draft Agreement to establish and maintain an International Register of Engineering Technologists.

This Agreement to establish and maintain an ETMF International Register of Engineering Technologists is intended to provide a framework for the recognition of experienced practising engineering technologists by the responsible bodies in each of the signatory economies. In particular, such bodies will be encouraged to use the Register as a secure benchmark for arrangements which provide mutual recognition or exemption and/or streamlined access by engineering technologists to licensing, registration or certification in economies other than that in which they first gained recognition.

Nothing in this Agreement is intended to limit the rights of any signatory organisation to conclude bilateral or multilateral agreements with any other organisations on different terms from those implied by the requirements for entry to the ETMF International Register of Engineering Technologists.

2 PURPOSE

Through this Agreement, the signatories aim to facilitate cross-border practice by experienced practising engineering technologists by establishing a framework for their recognition based on confidence in the integrity of national assessment systems, secured through continuing mutual inspection and evaluation of those systems.

This Agreement therefore provides a framework within which the appropriate responsible body in a economy may, to the extent it considers appropriate, recognise the substantial equivalence in professional competence and standing of experienced engineering technologists licensed, registered, certified or otherwise deemed eligible for independent practice in another economy within which the signatory organisations have standing.

The signatories note that such registration will only be effective if the responsible bodies in the relevant economies accept the validity of the procedures and criteria through which substantial equivalence is established, and streamline the procedures for granting rights of practice in their economies to registrants applying through this mechanism.

The signatories will therefore use their best endeavours to ensure that responsible bodies in the economies within which they have standing to use this Agreement as a foundation upon which to enter multilateral agreements, or to conclude bilateral agreements, providing for such

streamlined procedures to be adopted on a reciprocal basis in dealing with applications by registrants based in the economies concerned.

3 INTERNATIONAL REGISTER OF ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGISTS.

The signatories agree to create and maintain a decentralised ETMF International Register of Engineering Technologists and to grant entry to that Register only to those practitioners who can demonstrate that they have:

- (1) reached an overall level of academic achievement at the point of entry to the register in question which is substantially equivalent to that of a graduate holding an engineering technology degree/diploma/certificate accredited by an organisation holding full membership of and acting in accordance with the terms of the Sydney Accord; and
- (2) been assessed within their own economy as eligible for independent practice; and are registered, licensed or certified as engineering technologists within the relevant economy; and
- (3) gained a minimum of seven years practical experience since graduation; and
- (4) spent at least two years in responsible charge of significant engineering work; and
- (5) maintained their continuing professional development at a satisfactory level.

The conclusion reached in (1) above does not imply that acceptable academic achievement may be demonstrated only within the context of an accredited engineering technology program, and the signatories will therefore seek, as a matter of urgency, within the framework of the ETMF, to develop verification mechanisms that can be applied to assess the substantial equivalence of academic achievement through the alternative professional development routes that exist, or that are being established, in most jurisdictions.

In developing such verification mechanisms, particular attention should be given to identifying or establishing competency-based or outcomes-based standards to facilitate the recognition of substantial equivalence.

Assessment Statements from signatories that include a competency or outcome based assessment as an alternative route of this kind may be considered for approval by the International Coordinating Committee.

Applicants must agree to be bound by the codes of professional conduct established and enforced by each economy within which they are practising. Such codes normally require that practitioners place the health, safety and welfare of the community above their responsibilities to clients and colleagues, practise only within their fields of competence, and advise their clients if and when additional professional assistance becomes necessary to implement a programme or project.

Applicants must further agree to be held individually accountable for their actions, both through requirements imposed by the licensing, registering or certifying authorities in the economies in which they practise and through legal processes. By applying for registration, applicants authorise the signatory organisations to exchange such personal and other data as may be necessary to ensure that the application of a sanction or penalty in any economy in which an engineering technologist is registered or licensed to practice will be taken into account in deciding upon their continued designation and will be appropriately recorded in the Register.

4 INTERNATIONAL REGISTER COORDINATING COMMITTEE

To ensure consistency in application of the agreed criteria, ultimate authority for entering persons on the ETMF International Register will remain with an International Register Coordinating Committee, comprising a Chair and Secretariat appointed by a General Meeting of the signatories, and one voting representative from each signatory.

The chair and secretariat of the Coordinating Committee will also carry out their functions for the ETMF in terms of clause 8 of the Memorandum of Understanding.

The primary objectives of the International Register Coordinating Committee will be to facilitate the creation and operation of an authoritative decentralised International Register of Engineering Technologists, and to promote acceptance by the bodies responsible for licensing or registration in each economy where signatories have standing that the technical and professional competence of practitioners whose names appear on the International Register is in accordance with the provisions of section 3 above.

(1) To that end, the Coordinating Committee will:

- (a) ensure that the registration procedures and criteria adopted by each signatory organisation are subject to a review and report at intervals of not more than six years;
- (b) establish a schedule for the implementation of such reviews and reports, and select review teams from persons nominated by the signatory organisations, taking all reasonable steps to ensure that none of the individuals selected through this process has had any substantial prior involvement in or commitment to the registration system being reviewed;
- (c) support work being undertaken by current and potential signatories to develop objective mechanisms that would allow all signatories to determine with confidence that any proposed alternative criteria meet the benchmarks specified in this Agreement;
- (d) continue mutual monitoring and information exchange by whatever means are considered most appropriate, including regular communication and sharing of information concerning assessment procedures, criteria, systems, manuals, and publications; and
- (e) facilitate the exchange of information on proven cases of unethical or incompetent practice by registered engineering technologists, and the universal imposition of any sanctions imposed on such persons by the organisation responsible for the section of the Register upon which their names appear.

(2) Each signatory organisation will undertake to:

- (a) ensure that all practitioners entered by them on the ETMF International Register comply fully with the requirements specified in this Agreement, and that they have demonstrated that compliance through the procedures and criteria submitted to and approved by the International Register Coordinating Committee; and
- (b) give all reasonable assistance and advice to bodies which are responsible for registering, licensing or certifying engineering technologists in any economy in

which the signatory has standing and which seek to reach agreement upon mutual recognition or exemption with the corresponding authorities in other economies; and

- (c) monitor, and report regularly to the Coordinating Committee on, the extent to which persons entered upon the ETMF International Register have been successful in gaining rights to practice in economies within which the organisation has standing, and on any issues or concerns which may arise in relation to such practice.

5 MEMBERSHIP OF THE INTERNATIONAL REGISTER COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Members of the Engineering Technologists Mobility Forum who become signatories to this Agreement will be required, as soon as reasonably practicable, to nominate a representative to serve on the International Register Coordinating Committee.

The Coordinating Committee will invite each Member of the ETMF who has not signed this Agreement, and each Provisional Member of the ETMF, to nominate a non-voting representative to serve as members of the Coordinating Committee. These representatives will not be entitled to vote on any issue, or participate in the debate on the initial or continued authorisation of a signatory organisation to establish and maintain a section of the International Register of Engineering Technologists.

6 RULES

Rules will be developed so that the work of the Coordinating Committee, and the operation of the ETMF International Register, can be undertaken in a satisfactory and expeditious manner. The adoption of, or amendment to, such Rules will proceed only upon a positive vote by at least two-thirds of the members of the Coordinating Committee who are entitled to vote.

7 ADMINISTRATION

General Meetings of the International Register Coordinating Committee will be held at least once in each two-year period in conjunction with the meeting of the ETMF.

Special meetings must be convened by the Secretariat within three months of receipt of a request submitted in writing and signed by three or more members entitled to vote.

Each signatory organisation will be responsible for its own costs.

The operation of the International Register Coordinating Committee will be facilitated by the Secretariat of the ETMF.

8 OPERATION OF THE REGISTER

The Coordinating Committee may authorise any signatory organisation to operate a Register of certified / registered / licensed engineering technologists who meet such requirements as have been determined by that signatory organisation and endorsed by at least two-thirds of the other signatory organisation entitled to vote at General and Special Meetings of the Coordinating Committee.

Each authorised signatory organisation will undertake to develop and maintain a section of the ETMF International Register open to practitioners whose qualifications and technical and professional expertise have been assessed within economies within which that organisation has standing.

Each authorised signatory organisation will establish a Monitoring Committee to operate their decentralised section of the register.

Each authorised signatory organisation will be responsible for certifying the qualifications and experience of individual engineering technologists seeking entry to the ETMF International Register, whether or not the assessment of such candidates is delegated to an associated body.

Each authorised signatory organisation must provide timely and accurate information on the status of any person claiming to be listed on the section of the ETMF International Register for which they are responsible to any person or organisation having a legitimate need for access to such information, to exchange relevant data with the other authorised signatory organisation, and, in relation to economies within which they have standing, provide a single point of contact on matters concerning practitioners listed on the ETMF International Register.

Authorised signatory organisations must make every reasonable effort to comply with the review schedule to be established by the Coordinating Committee. Any authorised signatory organisation which effects a substantial change to its registration criteria, policies or procedures must report that change to the Coordinating Committee as soon as reasonably practicable, giving other authorised signatory organisations the opportunity to require that the scheduled review and report be brought forward.

9 TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

The process of establishing the ETMF International Register will commence if and when at least half of the Members of the Engineering Technologists Mobility Forum have indicated that they wish to become signatories to this Agreement.

Each signatory organisation will prepare an Assessment Statement summarising the procedures and criteria which are proposed to be applied within their economy. The procedures and criteria shall be compatible with the fundamental principles of this Agreement, and shall have regard to the Guidelines appearing in the Schedule to this Agreement.

An inaugural meeting of the Coordinating Committee will be held as soon as practicable in order to adopt appropriate Rules and consider such other issues as may be relevant to the establishment of the ETMF International Register. The draft Assessment Statement provided by each signatory organisation will then be reviewed in accordance with the approved Rules and may, in order to ensure consistency and mutual confidence, be either:

- (1) approved as submitted; or
- (2) with the consent of the proponent, approved with amendments; or
- (3) referred back for further consideration, with suggestions for improvement.

Where an Assessment Statement has been approved by at least two-thirds of the voting members of the Coordinating Committee, the signatory organisation concerned will be provisionally authorised to develop and maintain a section of the ETMF International Register within their economy in accordance with that Assessment Statement.

The continued authorisation of each such signatory will thereafter be subject to periodic review by the Coordinating Committee in accordance with the approved Rules, with an initial review being undertaken as soon as reasonably practicable following the inaugural meeting.

10 TERMINATION

The International Engineering Technologists Coordinating Committee will continue to function as long as at least half of the Members of the Engineering Technologists Mobility Forum wish to operate sections of the ETMF International Register. Any signatory organisation wishing to cease operation of a section of the Register must give at least twelve months notice to the Secretariat. No such cessation of operation will, of itself, affect registration or licensing granted prior to that cessation by responsible authorities to practitioners whose names appear on the terminated section of the Register.

THE ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGIST MOBILITY FORUM
To establish and maintain an ETMF International Register of Engineering
Technologists
ETMF SIGNATORIES

By the signatures of their representatives here annexed, the following organizations have agreed to accept the objectives defined by the Agreement, the Schedule and the International Register Coordinating Committee Rules known as the Engineering Technologists Mobility Forum Agreement to establish and maintain an International Register of Engineering Technologists.

Signatory

Ir Dr Lau Ching Kwong JP BSc(Eng) MSc PhD
FHKIE R.P.E. CEng FICE FStructE
FIHT FHKIHT MASCE
President
HONG KONG INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS

Patrick Purcell, BE MEngSc CEng FIEI
Director General
INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS OF IRELAND

Andrew Cleland, FIPENZ, PhD, BTech (Hons)
Chief Executive
INSTITUTION OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS NEW ZEALAND

Terry Stidworthy, Pr.Tech. Eng, FIPET
Chair of Registration Committee: Professional Technologists
ENGINEERING COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA

David M Long C Eng FIMarEST
Chairman of the ECUK International Advisory Panel
ENGINEERING COUNCIL (UK)

WITNESS – Institute of Engineers Australia - Representative

Signed at ROTORUA – NEW ZEALAND
13 June 2003