



# **An International Partnership: The Washington Accord**

**William E. Kelly P.E. Ph.D.**

**Manager Public Affairs ASEE**

**Chair ABET EAC 2001-2002**

**IFEES Global Engineering Education  
Summit**

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# Brief Background on the Washington Accord

- ◆ Originally signed in 1989 by 6 engineering education accrediting bodies from:
  - ◆ Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, United Kingdom & United States
- ◆ Non-governmental agreement
- ◆ Emphasizes peer-review

# Brief Background cont.

- ◆ Monitoring & verification of signatories' accreditation system every 6 years
- ◆ Developmental pathways for provisional admission (mature accreditors vs. emerging accreditors)
- ◆ Business Meeting of Signatories - every 2 years
- ◆ Full signatory status requires unanimous agreement

**More Information?**

[www.washingtonaccord.org](http://www.washingtonaccord.org)

# Washington Accord

*... recognizes the "substantial equivalency" of accreditation systems to assess that the **graduates of accredited programs are prepared to practice engineering at the entry level to the profession.***

# Recognition

- ◆ Licensure/registration of graduates from recognized programs rests with receiving country/jurisdiction
- ◆ Signatory encourages the licensing body in its own country to accept the substantial equivalence of engineering educational programs accredited by the other Signatories.
- ◆ Programs accredited prior to acceptance of accreditor as full Signatory - not recognized
- ◆ Provisional status – no recognition of programs by Signatories

# Washington Accord

## *SIGNATORIES*

**Engineers Australia (1989)**

**Engineers Canada (1989)**

**HKIE (Hong Kong – 1995)**

**Engineers Ireland (1989)**

**JABEE (Japan - 2005)**

**ABEEK (Korea – 2007)**

**IPENZ (New Zealand -1989)**

**IES (Singapore 2006)**

**IEET (Chinese Taipei – 2007)**

**ECSA (South Africa – 1999)**

**ECUK (United Kingdom –  
1989)**

**ABET (USA – 1989)**

## *PROVISIONAL STATUS*

**ASIIN (Germany - 2003)**

**NAB of AICTE (India - 2007)**

**RAEE (Russia – 2007)**

**BEM (Malaysia - 2003)**

**IE Sri Lanka (2007)**

# Current Developments

- ◆ Adoption of Exemplar for Graduate Attributes and Professional Competencies for Engineers, Technologists and Technicians
- ◆ Mentoring process for developing accreditation organizations
- ◆ Harmonized rules & procedures for Washington Accord, Sydney Accord, Dublin Accord
- ◆ Several organizations throughout the world have expressed interest in joining the Washington Accord
- ◆ Joint secretariat to manage international accords and agreements



# Current Issues & Questions

- ◆ Managing changing standards & degree levels among and between signatories
- ◆ Distance education
- ◆ Branch campuses across national boundaries

# How do you measure success?

- ◆ Licensing jurisdictions, on the whole, recognize the Washington Accord
- ◆ Increasing interest in joining by existing accreditors
- ◆ Increasing interest in developing accreditation systems, within countries or regions
- ◆ Enhanced international recognition of home institutions
- ◆ Enhanced mobility of graduates

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# **Questions, Comments & Discussion**