

Dear Member of WFTO,

Here we are again with another update to tell you about the latest developments at WFTO. We continue to see good progress on a number of fronts... a statement which I hope you agree is born out by the following information.

As always we are interested in hearing from you. With the next Member Bulletin we will send you a SURVEY to get your input on a number of questions facing WFTO. To help with our planning and to be sure we are heading in the direction you'd like to see for the WFTO. But that is for the next issue... on to the current update.

1. WFTO GLOBAL CONNEXION

will be published for the first time in a month or so. We expect to get it out to you in January. The first issue will be 8 pages and will document the achievements during the first 2 years of operation. Watch for it. A readership survey will be included and we will invite your comments.

2. WFTO LEAFLET & APPLICATION

We are enclosing 2 copies of the leaflet and WFTO Member Application. Please pass along to a key person in an organization you believe will want to become affiliated with the WFTO and help us with our work. We again ask for your full assistance in recruiting members into the WFTO. Watch for a list of members in WFTO CONNEXION.

3. COMMONWEALTH FOUNDATION SUPPORTS WFTO!

We are indebted to the Foundation for their support of the Workshop, "How to Establish and Manage An Association for Technicians and Technologists", convened in Nairobi and Kenya in May 1997. Their funds helped representatives attend from Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. A summary of this workshop is enclosed for your information.

4. ON THE THRESHOLD 4th International Symposium on Technology Education and Training, Cape Town, June 27 July 1 1998

The First Announcement and Call for Papers has generated a great deal of interest. Nico Beute at Cape Technikon and his team have now reviewed and accepted over 40 abstracts! This Symposium is THE PLACE TO BE IN 1998.

A PRELIMINARY REGISTRATION FORM is enclosed, to help you make your plans for your trip to South Africa. Our hosts guarantee a great conference, some tremendous outings in the local area and much more. Plan to be there.

If you have not as yet submitted a paper, you should consider a POSTER or possibly information for table top booth/display. More information with the next issue.

5. NOMINATIONS FOR 1998 2001 BOARD

The Nominations Committee of Bruce Wells (Canada) and Tony Bradley (Ireland) are looking for additional nominations for the next Board. You may send expressions of interest to my attention at WFTO. A key factor to consider is YOUR COST to serve on the Board. Given our limited resources during our 'start up' phase, we are very much relying upon interested organizations to make a commitment to pick up the costs for their representative to serve. If interested we encourage you to approach not only your

association but also Governments, industry, other NGOs and charitable foundations to help cover your expenses. There are many sources of funds available when you go looking and have a good cause. WFTO's goals are very topical and likely to attract interest and funding support. We encourage you to approach others to support participation on the WFTO Board.

6. INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGY STANDARDS

We are making some modest but encouraging progress in the development of standards. One example to bring to your attention is the work of Sandra Sanders of Broward Community College (Florida, USA) who is busy working on the Electronics Standard. She has managed to get representation from a number of countries to help her out. We are indebted to Sandra, Broward Community College and the many others on her team working on this initiative. If YOU are interested in helping Sandra or knowing a little more about the project let us know. OUR GOAL is to have several draft standards in place to review when we gather in Cape Town.

7. TECHNOLOGIST & TECHNICIAN PROFILES

Once again we have a spirited helper in John Antrim (USA) who is now working on a presentation for the 1998 International Symposium on WFTO Technician and Technologist Profiles. John is already developing a number of ideas. Does your organization have a brief, one page summary or "profile" of a technologist or technician? If so, please forward to us. Thanks.

8. ZAMBIA ASSOCIATION OF TECHNICIANS AND TECHNOLOGISTS

announces official launch! Our colleagues in Zambia advise they convened a special ceremony to launch the new association, ZATT. Members will recall that the WFTO and the Commonwealth Association for Polytechnics in Africa (CAPA) conducted two open forums in Zambia in the Fall of 1996 at which over 500 technicians & technologists attended to hear about WFTO and CAPA and to get started on an association. Elifa Ngoma, Secretary General of CAPA, and I served as the 'catalysts' for an initiative that was ready to 'take off'. Mr Benny Musonda, National President of ZATT, reports the new association is off to a good start.

9. MEETING WITH DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL UNESCO

I visited Paris in October and met with several key people including Adnan Badran, DDG. My Badran was most gracious and once again emphasized his full support for WFTO. We talked about a new global network to link WFTO members and interested stakeholders around the world. UNESCO will turn over to WFTO software that will help us move this idea along another step. We are hoping to make an announcement at the 1998 Symposium. A new fund raising initiative was also part of our discussion and he once again gave his full support. The DDG offered UNESCO's support for the 1998 International Symposium and committed to funding workshops in the area of culture of maintenance. WFTO will cooperate with CAPA and other interested stakeholders to make this happen.

I also met with Boris Berkovski, Director, Engineering & Technology, UNESCO and one of his colleagues, Tony Marjoram. A visit with Qian Tang of the Technical and Vocational Education Sector proved most successful as well. Mr Tang also met with me later the

same week when we gathered with Messrs Berkovski, Marjorm and Zharov to pull together some ideas and actions that are common to UNESCO and WFTO. All of the meetings would not have been possible if it were not for the very strong support and assistance of Vladimir Zharov, Director of Basic Sciences, UNESCO who continues to be a hard working member of the WFTO Board.

10. WFTO BRIEF ON CULTURE OF MAINTENANCE

presented to UNESCO Assembly. A copy is enclosed. After meetings early last year with V Zharov and others I was prompted to write a brief on Culture of Maintenance. This I did and passed along to Mr Zharov to present at the UNESCO General Assembly in November. I have not yet time to follow up with Vladimir Zharov to determine the impact of this initiative. We will keep you posted.

11. KENYA ASSOCIATION OF TECHNICIANS AND TECHNOLOGISTS (KATT)

is moving ahead faster than expected!. Paul Kabao, Chair and Warabe Obeid, Vice Chair of the National Steering Committee formed during my visit to Kenya, are in regular contact with me to advise of their tremendous progress. They are people with great ideas and much energy and will certainly produce results in quick time. We encourage full speed ahead for KATT!

12. SUPPORT NEEDED FOR CoTTCo and WFTO

We are seeking funding support for WFTO/CoTTCo to assist us with operations. Current funding does not provide the funds needed to maintain operations at current levels. The generous support of the BC Government in 1995 (\$20,000) provided a much needed kick-start. The Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC (ASTTBC, (where I work as full time Executive Director) is providing a great deal of support as is the Foundation for Education and Advancement in Technology and Strategies West (a small sideline enterprise of the Leech family). We now need some additional organizations and governments that agree with and will support our work. Can you help out? Let me know and we will follow up...

13. VISITS TO AFRICA PLANNED

We are hoping to visit Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia this June. Costs will be covered from projects we hope to secure and personal funds. It is hoped that I will be able to visit and arrange meetings and workshops in Tanzania and Uganda, building on the work that we started in May 1997.

14. INDIA TO GET INVOLVED

... I hope to make a trip to India within the next 18 months to assist with the formation of an association in that country. Once again we are looking for partners within India and funding to support our work. The Association of Canadian Community Colleges (a WFTO Member) is working with us to establish links in India. Thanks to Tom Norton and Dean Shivji for their help.

15. INVITATION TO VISIT SE ASIA

Our members in Malaysia - Technological Association of Malaysia (Mohd Tajudin Bin Mohd Alias) and Singapore - Singapore Institute of Engineering Technologists (Allan Ang is on WFTO Board and Sam Man Keong is Honorary Secretary) have extended invitations

to visit and work with others in the region to enhance networking, formation of associations and other similar activities. We are doing everything possible to arrange this visit within the next 18 months. Both TAM and SIET are expected to send representatives to Cape Town International Symposium. Sam Man Keong and Allan Ang (WFTO Board Member) have offered to present a paper at the Symposium.

16. ANNUAL DUES PAID?

Almost all dues are up to date. THANKS for your prompt attention to our notices. Invoices will be going out soon for 1998 and again we'd appreciate your prompt payment. Once payment is received we will send you the 1998 renewal decal for your certificate.

17. STAY IN TOUCH...

we do want to hear from you. THANKS to all who've sent in letters, notes, Email messages in support of the work of the WFTO. This helps move us along. IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP OUT IN SOME WAY WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU. Let us know your area of interest and we will get you working for WFTO...

That is it for now. Stay in touch.

CHEERS! for now...

John E Leech AScT CAE
Secretary General

PS We at WFTO wish you and your family the very best in 1998.

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