

Information Paper

Intention to submit an eventual application
for
Provisional Membership of the IEA
(Washington Accord forum)

The Institution of Engineers Mauritius (IEM)

22nd January 2021



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A. Preamble

Intention to submit an eventual application for Provisional Membership of the IEA (Washington Accord forum)

With reference to IEA document ‘Accord Rules and Procedures’ (version 2019.1), and after taking cognizance of the requirements to be satisfied by an accrediting body seeking admission into the IEA /Washington Accord, the **Institution of Engineers Mauritius (IEM)** wishes hereby to inform you of its intention to submit an application for provisional membership of this esteemed global forum towards the end of December 2022.

We wish to avail ourselves of this opportunity to spell out the various initiatives to attain our objective, and give a summary of the milestones and achievements in the IEM’s endeavours to position itself as **the uncontested Premier Engineering Institution in matters of Engineering Accredited Degrees in Mauritius**; the Institution of Engineers Mauritius’s endeavours have at the same time ensured that they were aligned with Government of Mauritius’s own national objectives of developing Mauritius as an Education Hub.

However, considering our size and economy (as one of the Small Islands Developing States), it is not intended that IEM creates a large complex organisation having to cater for the accreditation of hundreds and thousands of programmes to accredit. We see the Institution developing capacity in full compliance with the IEA/Washington Accord to accredit engineering degree programmes, meeting the educational requirements for entry into the practice of engineering at professional level delivered by Mauritian Universities and making arrangements with other Washington Accord signatory organisations for engineering disciplines for which IEM would not have acquired the necessary expertise. The Council of IEM has decided that the educational standard against which engineering degree programmes will be benchmarked shall be that advocated by the IEA for the Washington Accord.

We include hereafter a brief on our progress to date:



B. Brief History of IEM

The **Institution of Engineers Mauritius (IEM)**, was created on 26th February 1948, under the appellation *Engineers Association of Mauritius*, to represent the engineering profession and provide a forum for all engineers to come together for the advancement of the engineering profession irrespective of the engineering disciplines in which they specialised or practised, and had set itself the following objectives: to foster engineering science and its application in all engineering disciplines, ensure the highest standard of service in engineering, and improve the status and safeguard the interests of the engineering profession. Its name was changed to “**The Professional Engineers Association of Mauritius**” during a Special General Meeting held on 28th January 1965. Thirteen years later, on 1st Dec 1978, the association was restructured and adopted a new name “**The Institution of Engineers Mauritius**”. The changes were approved by the Registrar of Associations on 19 January 1979.

The founder members desired to regulate the profession and the practice of engineering. The government of the day agreed on the regulation but by a different body. The engineers were nevertheless satisfied when a **Council of Registered Professional Engineers Bill** was pushed through the Legislative Assembly and was eventually approved.

The **Council of Registered Professional Engineers Ordinance** was gazetted on 23 December 1965. The IEM has remained an association of professional engineers, whereas the **Council of Registered Professional Engineers (CRPE)** is the body authorised to approve qualifications, leading to registration as Professional Engineers, and to register the holders of such qualification subject to their also meeting tie experience requirements. If at all the Institution has to intervene at the level of the Council, it does so through its two representatives on the council of the C.R.P.E.

In addition to serving on the council of the C.R.P.E. the Institution is active at the level of the Board of the **Central Electricity Board** and puts in its contribution at the **Mauritius Standard Bureau**, the **University of Mauritius**. The IEM has made requests to Government for the Institution to be represented on major Government committees and parastatal Boards concerned with the provision of services requiring heavy investment of engineering nature.

The IEM joined the **World Federation of Engineering Organisations, (WFEO)**, as a Regional Member in 1981, and became a Full member of the **Commonwealth Engineers Council (CEC)** on 15 November 1985.

IEM’s constitution was amended in October 2018 to create the **Engineering Accreditation Board (EAB)**, in the context of the Washington Accord project.

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C. The Washington Accord Accreditation Project

1. From 2016 up to June 2018

IEM created a Working Group for Engineering Accreditation (WGEA) which held numerous meetings to work on strategies, road maps and activities which would prepare IEM for membership of the Washington Accord, initially through the provisional membership status. IEM was aware that it was a major venture requiring the understanding, collaboration and agreement of all the stakeholders in matters of education, training, employment and professional development of engineers, and that every stakeholder needed to be brought on board, and that embarking on such a venture required resources.

A funding opportunity came up around September 2016 when the Royal Academy of Engineering (UK) launched a Scheme under which professional engineering institutions in the sub-Saharan countries could obtain some funds for capacity building. For IEM, it was a source to be tapped, and to use the funds to propagate the notion and concept of engineering programme accreditation and acquaint stakeholders from the academia, the profession, and the industry and representatives of students with what the International Engineering Alliance and the Accords (especially Washington Accord) represented, their objectives, their constitution, the standards they advocated, their membership, and their requirements for accreditation of programmes as well as the requirements to be satisfied by the accrediting agencies desiring membership thereof. IEM was successful in an application for a grant of £40,000 on a Pilot Project to Build Capacity of the Institution of Engineers Mauritius through the accreditation of engineering education, and implemented the Pilot Project, which comprised following activities on the following themes:

- **Creating awareness among stakeholders on the implications and benefits of Accreditation of Engineering Degree Programmes.**
- **Initiation of potential to engineering graduate attributes and the characteristics of accreditation**

The following events took place:

- i. An official launch of the project by the then President of the Republic of Mauritius, H.E. Dr Mrs A. Gurib-Fakim, G.O.S.K., on the 23rd January 2017, in the presence of Prof. C. Atkins, President of the Royal Aeronautical Society and President-elect of the UK Engineering Council; the latter who was in Mauritius for an event of the Aeronautical Society of Mauritius was invited to address the audience during this Launch Ceremony.
- ii. IEM, in collaboration with its UK partner for the Pilot Project, Engineers Against Poverty, had invited Prof. B.G. Clarke, CEng, FICE, FGS, Professor of Civil Engineering at Leeds University and Past President of UK ICE to deliver a key-note address on “*Creating awareness among stakeholders on the implications and benefits of Accreditation of Engineering Degree Programmes*”.



- iii. An extensive programme was organised for the mission of Prof. Clarke from 13th to 17th February 2017. The main event on this occasion was a Conference held on 14th February during which Prof. Clarke delivered the keynote address and chaired a Panel Discussion. Eminent local personalities representing the main stakeholders were invited to address the audience and express their views on the theme “Accreditation of Engineering Degree Programmes. The Conference was attended by 45 participants representing universities, government and private sector organisations, and employers of engineers in Mauritius. During his mission, Prof Clarke also held discussions (in the presence of the IEM Working Group members) with regulatory bodies and universities, including the Council of Registered Professional Engineers Mauritius.
- iv. Two presentations were held for engineers at the IEM Headquarters. The first one was held on 26th January 2017 and focussed on a presentation of the details of IEM Africa Catalyst 16/17 project. The 2nd presentation was made by Prof. Clarke on 15th February on the topic “The role of education and training in the route to the formation of a practising engineer”.
- v. The training activities associated with the creation of a first pool of potential Accreditors were carried out in two stages. **The First stage** consisted of an **Accreditation Documentation Review Exercise** which was spread over 14 evening sessions of 2 hours each. The first of these Review sessions started on 14th March 2017, while the last (14th) session was held on 11th May. The presentations were delivered by members of the Working Group who were experienced engineers or academics and, in addition, were knowledgeable about Washington Accord accreditation, and were very actively engaged in promoting the “Washington Accord standard” as the benchmark to be adopted by Mauritius.
- vi. The programme was set off with a presentation of the “**Best Practices in the Accreditation of Engineering Programmes**”, a joint publication of International Engineering Alliance (IEA) and European Network for Engineering Education (ENAE), and was followed by the accreditation related manuals and procedures of **Engineers Canada; the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA); Engineering Accreditation Board of Singapore; Institution of Engineers New Zealand; the Engineering Council UK**, and a presentation of the **Rules and Procedures of Washington Accord**. It should be mentioned that the Working Group has obtained prior consent of the professional bodies mentioned for reproduction and use of their Accreditation manuals (from their websites) for conducting the Review sessions. The intent of these sessions was to make the attendees appreciate the similar approach to achieving substantially equivalent educational standards within their respective jurisdictions.



- vii. **The Second Stage** of training was held over six 3-hour sessions during the week 22nd to 26th May 2017. The resource persons were from the Institution of Engineering and Technology (UK): Prof. Andrew Downton & Prof. Sean Wellington who were selected in consultation with our UK partner, EAP. Prof Downton and Prof Wellington are eminent personalities in engineering accreditation. Prof Wellington is the Chair of IET's (Institution of Engineering & Technology, UK) Academic Accreditation Committee and delivers their accreditor training in the UK. He has chaired many UK and International accreditation visits. Prof Downton is a member of IET's Academic Accreditation Committee and also a very experienced IET Chair and Panel member for UK and international visits.

- viii. **The Final Activity** under the Pilot project has been the development of a Draft Governance Structure for an **Engineering Accreditation Board (EAB)** for consideration and approval by IEM, as a necessary instrument for establishing an engineering programme accreditation regime under the aegis of IEM for Mauritius.

Outcome and Impact of the Pilot Project

A significant outcome of the Pilot Project was that by the end of that project there was in Mauritius a cohort of professionals from the academia, the professional engineering institutions as well as from the Industry who were not only been sensitized on the implications and benefits of programme accreditation but who expressed a commitment to work both together as well as at their own ends to advance the cause of engineering programme accreditation. The impact of the pilot project was noted from interventions in the Parliament of the Republic where the Minister of Education made a statement to the effect that the IEM is building capacity with the aim of seeking admission into the Accord.

The Next Phase

In October 2017, IEM developed a project for financing of about £250,000 under the Stage 2 of the Royal Academy of Engineering. This project, which IEM proposed as the Accreditation Project for Mauritius, received good feedback from peer reviewers of the Royal Academy of Engineering but was not successful in obtaining funding because it was viewed more a national project with little Regional outreach. Nevertheless, IEM decided that it would seek local support and implement that project.



2. From July 2018 to June 2019

IEM concentrated on the specific objective is to build capacity for successful application to WA.

For that purpose, IEM would be required to demonstrate to WA that it has developed the accreditation standards and criteria aligned on WA and that it has in place a process for conducting accreditation, with trained . This, it proposed to do through the Engineering Accreditation Board EAB.

During the first quarter of 2018 IEM received an offer from **Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA)** for mentoring IEM to a level that would permit an application to be made for provisional membership of the Accord. IEM was assured of assistance from ECSA to run two sets of workshops. On the 13 Feb 2019, an IEM signed a 5-year Memorandum of Understanding with ECSA, to provide, inter-alia, for building up IEM's capacity as an accrediting agency, provide training to IEM's Engineering Accreditation Board members and the Board's accreditors, including opportunities to attend Accreditation assignment in South Africa as Observers.

IEM's endeavours in this direction led to steps being taken towards:

- **Amending the constitution of the Institution of Engineers Mauritius to include engineering programme accreditation among its objects, and to provide for establishment of an autonomous Engineering Accreditation Board and its administration.**
- **Setting up of the organizational structure for the administration of engineering accreditation.**
- **Drafting of the accreditation documents in collaboration with ECSA.**
- **Continuation of the programme of training of , including attendance as observers during actual accreditation exercises at overseas universities.**
- **Working with the Higher Educational Institutions offering programmes of studies in Engineering to consider reviewing their programmes for eventual accreditation by a Washington Accord signatory.**

Work on these objectives involved the following steps:

- i. IEM sought and obtained financial support from the Ministry of Education, Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research (MOEHRTEC) towards implementing the accreditation project with ECSA's expertise. It must be said to the credit of the Minister of Education (Hon Mrs. Leela Devi Dookhun-Luchoomun) that she immediately saw the national outreach that IEM's accreditation represented for Mauritius and how accreditation to Washington Accord would bring international recognition to the engineering education



dispensed by the Mauritian Universities. She also recognised that notwithstanding such assistance, IEM and the Engineering Accreditation Board need to remain autonomous and free from the influences of Government and the Higher Educational Authorities— these being the requirements of the IEA for an accrediting agency desiring admission into the Accord.

- ii. IEM secured the collaboration, through signature of MoUs with the HEIs (4 of them— University of Mauritius (UoM), University of Technology (UTM), Université des Mascareignes (UdM), and Ecole des Nantes (ECN)), three Professional Engineering Institutions, and the Regulatory Body (CRPE), whilst ensuring the collaboration through attendance at workshops of the Tertiary Education Commission as well as the Ministry of Education.
- iii. IEM, after successfully amending its Constitution (at a Special General Meeting of its members) for setting up the autonomous EAB along with the latter's governance structure, positioned itself as the recognized Mauritian body for the accreditation of engineering degree programs offered by Tertiary Educational Establishments in the Republic of Mauritius. The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the IEM-EAB (Document EAB 001) was approved and issued on the 13 June 2018.
- iv. IEM then set up EAB (in accordance with the provisions of the Governance Structure Manual) comprising members from the HEIs, PEIs, the CRPE, and the IEM itself, and also set up two other committees: the Standard Advisory Board for Engineering Accreditation (SABEA) for approving and overseeing the benchmark standard that the EAB would adhere to, and the Engineering Accreditation Steering Committee (EASC) (to monitor implementation of project). The EAB and both committees are now operational. An Administrator (Accreditation) as well as a Project Leader have been appointed.
- v. A five-day mission was undertaken by a five-member ECSA team from 27 to 31 August 2018. This five-day mission was fully supported financially by ECSA under the auspices of the Southern African Federations of Engineering Organisations, SAFEEO. The logistics and local travelling were funded by IEM.

The team was constituted by the following members:

- Mr. Thabo Seeoonane, Team Leader & Manager Strategy, ECSA
- Mr. John Cato, Executive Officer, Policy Development & Standards, ECSA
- Professor Jan-Harm Pretorius, Member and Chair of ECSA Team for B.Eng. Accreditation
- Mr. Jones Moloisane, Executive chair of the International Engineering Technologist IEAT
- Ms. Carmen Wright, Manager Education and CPD, ECSA



ECSA and IEM teams had the opportunity to visit the facilities of the following universities: JSS Academy for Technical Education JSSATE, (Mauritius campus), UDM, UOM and ECN (Mauritius Campus) and various topics on accreditation were discussed and clarified with the academic staff. ECSA experts explained that Desktop Reviews could be provided to those HEIs which have not yet embarked on the accreditation of their engineering programmes.

Sessions were held where members of the EAB and HEIs, including those who will serve as future and participate in the Standard Advisory Board for Engineering Accreditation (SABEA) and the Engineering Accreditation Steering Committee (EASC), were apprised of the documentation requirements, accreditors' requirements, and the various ECSA standards, rule and procedures.

With the assistance of ECSA delegates, the EAB has been able to chart a proposed roadmap to provisional membership with the WA.

- vi. The EAB initially established two Drafting groups as follows:
- (a) BEng Standard and Accreditation Criteria: under Prof Toolseeram Ramjeawon of the University of Mauritius. A first draft was produced and discussed and after discussions a second draft has been circulated.
 - (b) Accreditation Policy: under S Daliah Chairperson Council of Registered Professional Engineers. A first draft has been produced.

Considering that under the provisions of the MoU with ECSA, IEM has agreed to adapt the ECSA standards and accreditation process as references for the EAB, IEM reviewed the drafts to align them with ECSA documents. ECSA being already a signatory of Washington Accord IEM should have no difficulty adopting ECSA's standards.

IEM-EAB sponsored the participation of two academic staff from UDM (Dr M. Demkah) and UTM (R.Heerasing /EAB member) in the joint Institution of Engineers Singapore & CAFEO (36) workshops on Engineering Accreditation held in Singapore from 14-17 November 2018.

- vii. ECSA allocated two observer slots for their formal accreditation visit planned to the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal on the 14-15 March 2019. Two UoM academic staff, Dr D. Hurreeram (Dean, Faculty of Engineering) and Ms R. Rughooputh (Head, Department of Civil Engineering), attended.
- viii. ECSA's 2nd mission took place from 15 to 18 April 2019. The themes of the workshops were:
- **Self-study documentation/desktop review of one UoM programme,**
 - **Training of accreditors – train the trainer approach,**
 - **Review of EAB Policy, Standards and Criteria documents.**



Members of the team and their respective expertise are:

- Mr John Cato (Executive: Regulatory Functions)
- Mr Jones Moloisane (Subject Matter Expert: IEA and Accreditation)
- Prof Brandon Collier-Reed (Subject Matter Experts: IEA and Accreditation)
- Prof Didier Nyembwe (Subject Matter Experts: Endorsements - Desktop Evaluation)
- Mr Chris Stuurman (Subject Matter Experts: Endorsements - IEA and Accreditation)

3. From July 2019 –June 2020

IEM pursued its capacity building efforts (towards preparing for a successful application to WA) has been during this period especially with the following sub objective in mind:

IEM, through EAB, to build capacity to demonstrate that it has developed the accreditation standards and criteria benchmarked on WA and that it has in place a system and process for conducting accreditation, with trained accreditors, towards ensuring that programmes it will accredit will be substantially equivalent to those accredited by the Accord signatories.

- i. The Institute of Engineers India (IEI) organised and financed jointly with IEM an International Seminar at the MARITIM Resort and Spa Hotel, Balaclava on 21st August 2019 under the aegis of the Federation of Engineering Institutions of Asia and Pacific (FEIAP) and the Federation of African Engineering Organisations (FAEO). The theme of the seminar was “*Disruptive Technologies-Shaping Future Innovations*”. On that occasion, IEM presented the project on Accreditation of Engineering degree programmes.
- ii. IEM arranged for 3 more potential accreditors to attend accreditation assignments by ECSA as observers: Dr. S.Z. Sayed Hassen (UoM), Dr. V, Armoogum (UTM), and Mr A. Gungoosing (Consulting Engineer at SJCPE) attended the ECSA accreditation at WITS University in Johannesburg, South Africa (16-19 September 2019) as observers. One other person (Dr J. Rana, from Consulting Engineering firm, ARUP) who was also nominated but could not attend to due to family constraints.



- iii. The IEM President, Mr. R.H. Prayag, attended the 100th anniversary inaugural celebrations of the Institution of Engineers of INDIA (IEI) held in September 2019 and the possibility of assistance with NBA (India) was envisaged.
- iv. Mr. J. Soobarah, Vice-Chair EAB, attended the FAEO meeting (**UNESCO 6th Africa Engineering Week (AEW) and the 4th Africa Engineering Conference**) held in ZAMBIA from **15 to 21 September 2019**. Mr Soobarah made a presentation on '*IEM's endeavours to pave its way to Provisional status of the Washington Accord*'.

At the meeting, IEM had offered to share its experience with other African Engineering Institutions. IEM's resolution to adopt the 12 graduate attributes by the African engineering community was approved.

- v. IEM received a courtesy visit from Beijing Association of Science and Technology (BAST) on 11 November 2019. BAST is represented on the Council of CAST (China) which is itself a member of the Washington Accord.
- vi. A pool of potential from academia and industry were recruited during December 2019 through CRPE website and the local Press.
- vii. A networking meeting was held at IEM House on Monday 16th December 2019. Eighteen participants comprising of members from the EAB, SABEA and EASC and 3 newly recruited potential accreditors attended.
- viii. The EAB Core Team met with Udm Director General, Dr. Radakrishnah Somanah, and key staff on 20th January 2020 to present the current status of the EAB accreditation project and discussed the assistance that EAB could provide to UDM towards the review of their engineering programmes. It was agreed that EAB and UDM would work out a programme of collaboration. IEM would designate resource persons for the task, but will not itself be directly involved.
- ix. A half-day Validation workshop on the EAB draft documents was organized by IEM on 29th January 2020, in the context of the World Engineering Day. All stakeholders (Ministries, HEIs, PEIs, HEC, CRPE, and other institutions.) were invited.

The workshop was attended by 38 participants and graced by the presence of the Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology, Hon. Leela Devi Dookun-Luchoomun. On this occasion the Hon. VPM reiterated, in her opening address, her ministry's support of IEM 's project, which she said was in line with the Govt's policy to transform Mauritius into a Regional Education Hub dispensing world class education to prospective students



within the region and Africa. The support and commitment of local Institutions and the HEIs to IEM's project will be encouraged by her ministry

The following documents were presented during the workshop and validated:
Document EAB-A02-P (Qualification Standard for B.Eng. (Hons), BSc. (Eng.) Degree Programmes.

Document EAB-A03-P (Criteria for accreditation of engineering Degree Programmes.)

Document EAB-A10-P (IEM Policy on Accreditation of Engineering Degree programmes meeting CRPE Stage-1 for registration)

Document EAB –A00 (Administration and Governance of the Engineering Accreditation Board.

- x. The EAB Core Team met UTM's Director-General, Professor Keith Thomas, and key staff on the 14 Feb 2020 with proposals for technical assistance for reviewing their engineering programmes.
- xi. A second workshop by ECSA during a five-day mission for the formal training of Accreditors and a final review of the EAB documents (Policy, Criteria, BEng. Standard, self-study documents, templates, Charts and interlinking documents, etc.) was planned as from 25 February 2020; but did not materialise.
- xii. In February 2020 an opportunity came up for observing the decision-making process by the ECSA Education Committee: Four EAB nominees, namely Mr. Raj H Prayag (IEM), Dr. Vinaye Armoogum (UTM), Dr. S.Z. Sayed Hassen (UOM), and Mr. Donald L Dhondee (IEM) were designated to attend as Observers the ECSA's Education Committee meeting held on 12th February 2020.
- xiii. The EAB's plans to hold two training sessions for its in two batches in March 2020 could not proceed due to the advent of Corona pandemic and subsequent lock-down instituted in Mauritius.
- xiv. An IEM plan to send representatives to the IEA June 2020 Meeting in Cape Town was also aborted by the Corona pandemic



4. **From July 2020-June 2021**
Work in hand:

- (1) The EAB conducted two-half workshops for its potential on 28th and 29th August 2020. The first one was 'experience sharing by who had attended 'Observer' training under ECSA and the second one was formal training on their role and responsibilities, EAB documentation, guidance during site accreditation visits, drafting of reports, check lists, accreditation Team chair and accreditation committee decision process.
- (2) Visits to the Director-Generals and academic staff of both UDM and UTM were undertaken on the 2nd and 9th September 2020 by the Core Committee, followed by work sessions with a team of local consultants so as to assist both HEIs and encourage them to embark on the accreditation of their engineering degree programmes.
- (3) As at end of November 2020, the following documents have been drafted:
 - (i) EAB-00-P (*Administration and Governance of the EAB*).
 - (ii) EAB-A01-P (*Background to IEM Accreditation of Engineering Accreditation Programmes*)
 - (iii) EAB-A02-P (*Qualification Standard for B.Eng. (Hons) / BSc. (Eng.) Degree Programmes*)
 - (iv) EAB-A03-P (*Criteria for accreditation of engineering degree programmes meeting Stage-1 CRPE's Educational Requirements for registration.*)
 - (v) EAB-A10-P (*Policy on Accreditation of Engineering Degree Programmes*)
 - (vi) EAB –A 11-P (*Accreditation Process*).
 - (vii) EAB-A12-P (*Self-study documentation requirements for accreditation of engineering degree programmes meeting the CRPE registration requirements for stage-1*)
 - (viii) EAB –A13-P (*Forms for Use in Accreditation Visit Documentation*)
 - (ix) EAB-A14-P (*Visiting Team Report and Recommendation*)
 - (x) EAB-A15-P (*Accreditation Visit Leader's report format*)
 - (xi) EAB-A16-P (*Procedure for handling Appeals against Accreditation decisions*)

The Core Committee has harmonised the various documents. Arrangements are in hand for vetting by an external consultant, Mr. John CATO (previously with ECSA). prior to submission to the SABEA.

- (4) In December 2020, the EAB subcommittee on 'Ethics and Conflict Avoidance' submitted a draft document EAB-A17 (Policy and Guidance on Ethics and Conflict of Interest) for the Guidance of anyone associated with the functions of engineering programme accreditation by IEM.



D. Proposed Assistance from NBA (India)

Following discussions between the WFEO, the NBA (India) and IEM, it is appreciated that the National Board of Accreditation of India (NBA) has expressed its willingness to assist IEM in its endeavour towards achieving WA provisional status. In this context IEM has submitted a proposal to the NBA. If agreed by the NBA then we might see several workshops being held in Mauritius as part of the mentoring assistance from the NBA. Between themselves these workshops should cover the following:

- i. Agreement on check list for application for provisional application by IEM to WA by late 2022 or early 2023
- ii. Reviewing and vetting of the IEM's complete set of Accreditation documentation
- iii. Holding further training sessions for all EAB accreditors, (hopefully using Training Materials adapted from NBA and ECSA)
- iv. Running workshop for the HEIs intending to seek accreditation from IEM/ECSA with emphasis on documentation to be supplied to EAB.
- v. Running a mock accreditation exercise (based on NBA documents);
- vi. Following-up on accreditation with drafting of Report,
- vii. Running a mock decision-making exercise,
- viii. Meeting with HEIs to evaluate progress towards getting accreditation ready,
- ix. **Subject to NBA acceptance (with IEA approval) of NBA serving as a Nominator, along with ECSA, performing activities in relation to Nominators' responsibilities associated with an eventual application by IEM as provisional member of the WA, which should include:**
 - Attending pre-accreditation meeting of Accreditation Visit Teams
 - Accompanying Visit Teams to HEIs, intervening and assisting where necessary
 - Attending debrief meeting between Visit Teams and the Faculty
 - Reviewing Accreditation Visit Report Prepared by Accreditation Team
 - Monitoring EAB decision making through Videoconference (if feasible).

Note: IEM's envisages for both Nominators to attend the same accreditation assignments that IEM will undertake.

In the event the Nominators agree to recommend IEM's application, then provided no conflict of interest is perceived IEM would like NBA as well as ECSA to review IEM 's application prior to submission. This could be envisaged for late 2022 or Early 2023.



Objectives and Activities planned from 2021 to 2023

- **The objective is to ensure that IEM/EAB have met all the WA requirements (Schedule B1 of IEA Rules and procedures) for it to qualify for provisional membership. This includes a key requirement to the effect that prior to submitting an application for provisional membership EAB should have undertaken a certain minimum number of accreditation assignments, including at least two programmes from two separate Universities under the supervision of mentors.**

E. Conclusion

The Corona pandemic and the associated closure of borders have caused major disruptions to the joint ECSA/IEM efforts at incapacitating IEM/EAB's accreditors who could otherwise have participated as members of the ECSA Team in the process of accreditation on going at the University of Mauritius by ECSA. Nevertheless, IEM is hopeful that the situation will revert to normal very soon and that IEM accreditors will be able to complete their training as accreditors so that in due course the Nominators designated/approved by IEA would have the opportunity necessary to attend accreditation assignments undertaken by IEM.

Our purpose through this information letter to the IEA Secretariat is to make the IEA, and particularly the Washington Accord signatories of the initiatives of the Institution of Engineers Mauritius to become a part of the global forum that the IEA represents. IEM's endeavours have been restricted to Washington Accord because only the practice of professional engineering is regulated in Mauritius. IEM will certainly extend its ambit over the profession of Technologists and Engineering Technicians whenever the authorities in Mauritius decide that these professions need be regulated and enact the appropriate legislation for that purpose.

The Institution of Engineers Mauritius would be grateful, if after taking cognizance of our efforts at enhancing the educational standard of our engineering graduates, and consequently the professionalism of our engineers, you believe there is some advice you could offer to us on any course correction that may be required for us to remain on tract or any other information you might wish to know before advising us one way or other.

Yours most sincerely,

Mr. Shyam ROY
IEM President

Mr Raj H Prayag
Vice President and Chairman EAB