



Barcelona, venue of the Second International Conference on Ethics and Human Values in Engineering

2nd, 3rd and 4th March 2010 Barcelona (Catalonia/Spain) will hold the celebration of the Second International Conference on Ethics and Human Values in Engineering. This Conference is promoted by the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO), non-profit organization that gathers worldwide engineering organizations, and Victoriano Muñoz Oms Chair (VMO) from Technical University of Catalonia (UPC) that is sponsored by ENDESA Red, the leading company in the electrical Spanish market. This chair works in the promotion of human values in engineering.

The Conference wants to become a platform for the debate and exchange of informations for engineers -and for many other people closely linked to engineering such as university professors, researchers and business people- interested in the reflection about the social impact of human values in engineering: social role of engineer, human aspect of sustainability and technology, influence of communication and information technologies in social relationships and in the development of the professional task, and so on.

The second edition of the Conference will gather in La Pedrera (Casa Milà) -an iconic building of modernism in Barcelona- more than 250 professionals of engineering from all around the world. The Conference will be presided by María Jesús Prieto Laffargue, president of WFEO and former president of the Spanish Institute of Engineering, the Spanish entity in WFEO. This entity gathers engineering associations of different branches and more than one hundred thousand of professionals all around the country.

Who organises the Conference?

The Second International Conference on Ethics and Human Values in Engineering is organised jointly by the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) and the Victoriano Muñoz Oms Chair (VMO) from UPC that is sponsored by ENDESA Red.

WFEO gathers engineering organizations from more than eighty countries and represents more than twenty million professionals. It is an organization committed with the search of benefits for humanity throughout the advance of the professional exercise of engineering all around the world. The WFEO collaborates in the exchange and transfer of technology between countries, promotes the social comprehensions of engineering, encourages the quality in engineers' training and gives a boost to ethics in the practice of engineering.

Victoriano Muñoz Oms Chair (VMO) from Technical University of Catalonia (UPC) develops and promotes activities related to the study and promotion of human values, the suitable personal attitudes and ethics in engineering. These elements were fundamental in Victoriano Muñoz Oms's professional activity. In the opinion of the Chair responsables, the complexity that involves contemporary society claims that education in values and attitudes represents a significant part of new engineers.

Luxury speakers

The international speakers that will take part in the Conference is headed by Barry Grear, former president of WFEO and The Institution of Engineers (Australia). Grear, is an electrical engineer that has a long-term experience in executive jobs in administration and private companies. He was the first director of the Engineering Coordination Committee of APEC (Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation).

It has also been confirmed the participation in the Conference of Sam Kundishora, president of the African Engineers Forum and vice-director of the Information and Communication Committee of WFEO. Also confirmed, José María Galván, Professor of the Moral Theology Department at Pontificia Università della Santa Croce in Rome. A worldwide expert in technoethics, has worked in the field of the anthropological implications of robotical and artificial intelligence investigation.

Up to now, it has to be confirmed the participation of Ishii Yumio, director of a leading engineering consultancy, civil engineer and expert in planning and resources in hydroengineering. Yumio belongs to the Executive Committee of the International Federation of Consultant Engineers and member of the Governors' Board at World Water Council.

Engineering, an ally to solve social problems

The social role of engineering and its sociological impact will be visualized along all the Conference. The programme is full of activities (almost conferences and round tables) where experts and the attendees can study into depth different aspects of social implications and of an unquestionable topicality. The proposal is attractive and suggestive. These are some of the aspects that will be discussed in the Conference:

- ▶ Engineering and "no" culture
- ▶ Engineering, dominance of immediate things and long term vision
- ▶ Engineering and human aspect of a sustainable development
- ▶ Engineering for a responsible and meditated use of resources
- ▶ Engineering at the service of struggle against corruption
- ▶ Engineering for accesible goods and services
- ▶ Ethics and professional deontology in engineering
- ▶ Social comprehension in engineering

