

2<sup>a</sup> CONFERENCIA INTERNACIONAL  
SOBRE ÉTICA Y VALORES HUMANOS EN INGENIERÍA  
2, 3 y 4 de marzo del 2010, Barcelona, España



## Tomorrow begins the Second International Conference on Ethics and Human Values in Engineering

Barcelona will turn from tomorrow Tuesday into the world capital of social and responsible engineering. On 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> March, La Pedrera is the venue of the Second International Conference on Ethics and Human Values in Engineering. The Conference will gather in the Catalan capital engineering professionals from all over the world. During three consecutive days the participant engineers will debate and reflect about different aspects related to the social impact of their profession, good practices and ethics.

The organisers of the Conference –the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) and Victoriano Muñoz Oms Chair (VMO) of the Technical University of Catalonia– want to show that engineering, in all its aspects, it is not a cool and distant discipline, but close and human. According to María Jesús Prieto Laffargue, president of WFEO and of the Conference, this international event, **“must allow the visualization that a responsible practice of engineering contributes to social and economic progress of the countries”**, and must work **“to refute the cliché that engineering lives with its back to society and its ethic and human values: engineers want to be more visible, more relevant, they want to have a more important social role”**, says Prieto Laffargue.

According to Jaume Fabregat, director of Victoriano Muñoz Oms Chair (VMO) of the Technical University of Catalonia, **“as engineers we must work long-term, thinking in future generations. Our professional activity can help in the struggle against poverty, some ways of corruption and can contribute to a more sustainable development of the planet”**. Fabregat, who is also the Secretary of the Conference, thinks that **“engineering can play a decisive role, now and in the future. However, it all begins training in values to future engineers, I mean, impregnating university studies with ethics and humanism”**.

The Conference will raise socially committed matters such as the human aspects of sustainability and technology, the influence of information and communication technologies in social relationships in the development of the professional task, engineering and “culture of no”, ethics and professional deontology, engineering at the service of the struggle against hunger and corruption, and so on.

The international speakers that will take part in the Conference are: Barry Grear, former president of WFEO, that will talk about **Engineering and “culture of no”**, Ishii Yumio, president of the Committee on Disaster Prevention at WFEO, that will talk about the **Ethical conduct of engineers**; Sam Kundishora, president of the African Engineers



WFEO World Federation of  
Engineering Organisations



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Forum, that will talk about the ***Impact of Information and Communication Technologies on ethics and human values***; José María Galván, a world expert in technoethics that will be talking about ***The challenge of technoethics in front of the crisis of postmodernity***; José Esquinas, Director of the Chair on Hunger and Poverty, who will expound on ***Engineering in the struggle against poverty***, and Antón Costas, president of the Advisory Council of ENDESA in Catalonia, who will talk about ***Tensions between the knowledge of experts, society and politics***. Some of the speakers that will also take part in the Conference are Teófilo-Julián del Pozo, founder of BTTelecomunicaciones, and José María Fluxá, president of the Water forum, that will raise subjects related to the training in values of future engineers.

In addition to the conferences, during the three days of the Conference, there will also be round tables and thematic dialogues where experts of different disciplines directly or indirectly related to engineering will take part. These round tables will raise thematics related to the social impact of this professions, good practices and ethics. ***Ethics, engineering, company and administration; Woman and engineering: other looks, other views, other attitudes?; Engineering at the service of cooperation for human development; Dilemmas around the application of new biotechnologies; University training in values and attitudes in engineering***, are some of the programmed titles.

The Second International Conference on Ethics and Human Values in Engineering is organised jointly by the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) and the Chair Victoriano Muñoz Oms (VMO) of the Technical University of Catalonia, sponsored by ENDESA Red. WFEO gathers engineering organisations from more than eighty countries and represents more than twenty million professionals. It's an organisation committed with the search of benefits for humanity through the advance of the professional exercise of engineering in all the world.

The Chair Victoriano Muñoz Oms (VMO) of the Technical University of Catalonia develops and promotes activities related to the study and promotion of human values, suitable personal attitudes and ethics in engineering, some elements present in the professional activity of engineer Victoriano Muñoz Oms, who gives his name to this Chair.

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