

2^a CONFERÈNCIA INTERNACIONAL SOBRE ÈTICA I VALORS HUMANS A L'ENGINYERIA

2, 3 i 4 de març del 2010, Barcelona, Espanya



Barry Grear: “The struggle against the culture of no begins not cheating people”

“We can't build bridges that do not take anywhere, we must never promise things we can't do”, has assured Barry Grear, former president of the World Federation of Engineering Organisations (WFEO), during the opening conference of the **Second International Conference of Ethics and Human Values in Engineering** that began today in Barcelona. With this comparison, Grear wants to summarize the spirit of strictness and ethics that guides the activity of engineers, defending the deontologic code the World Federation of Engineering Organisations.

According to this Australian engineer, that has expounded on the matter of **Engineering and culture of no**, engineering professionals must do pedagogy to fight against the culture of no, to turn an initial social no in any project into a yes without conditions. In order to achieve this, it is essential **“not to cheat people, do reasonable calendars, give information during the execution of projects and, finally, if it is possible, celebrate it and reward people”**. In opinion of Grear, engineer **“must be brave, must not create false expectations, must not give hasty answers and must convince with arguments”**. With this receipt, we can achieve **“that communities and individuals understand and believe that what is good for community is good for them”**. **“Only this way –he adds- we can transform the initial no in a yes, even if the project is in their backyard”**, has said with irony.

María Jesús Prieto Laffargue, the current president of WFEO, ho has introduced the speaker, has said that **“engineers must learn to communicate appropriately the things, they must interiorize that solutions are not unique and that they must adapt their work to the needs and complexity of the community where they work”**. According to the president of WFEO and the Conference, the professionals of engineering must know how to explain that **“the advances and new technologies allow a quality skip that facilitates their task and the adoption of suitable decisions and lets them transform a no into a yes”**.

Antón Costas, president of the Advisory Council of Endesa in Catalonia, has been the second speaker of the day. During his intervention, that has been about the matter of **Tensions between the knowledge of experts, society and politics**, he has claimed for more respect for experts.



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“Paradoxically –has added- society of knowledge has provoked the loss of authority of the expert, has brought an ignorance, but not lack of information”. According to this opinion this fact **“has provoked the creation of an uncertainty, the fear of not knowing enough, and this, makes political decisions to change”.**

According to Costas, we live in a society of rich and spoiled children that do not want to have projects near their houses and their work, as Grear said and that, **“in addition, they complain about everything and do not take into account the opinion of experts. This must change, and the solution is listening the opinions of experts, in this case engineers”.** Costas has added that the complexity of current society compulses **“to make social decisions without doing a by-pass to society, as they have something to say”.**

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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