Cross Licensing Report

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General Introduction

There are six international agreements governing mutual recognition of engineering qualifications and professional competence. The purpose of the agreements is to advance benchmarking and mobility in engineering practice. In each of these agreements countries/economies who wish to participate may apply for membership, and if accepted become members or signatories to the agreement. In broad principle, each country/economy must meet its own costs, and the body making application must verify that it is the appropriate representative body for that country/economy.

Agreements covering tertiary qualifications in engineering
There are three agreements covering mutual recognition in respect of tertiary-level qualifications in engineering:

The Washington Accord signed in 1989 was the first - it recognises substantial equivalence in the accreditation of qualifications in professional engineering, normally of four years duration.

The Sydney Accord commenced in 2001 and recognises substantial equivalence in the accreditation of qualifications in engineering technology, normally of three years duration.

The Dublin Accord **i**s an agreement for substantial equivalence in the accreditation of tertiary qualifications in technician engineering, normally of two years duration. It commenced in 2002.

Agreements covering competence standards for practising engineers

The other three agreements cover recognition of equivalence at the practising engineer level i.e. it is individual people, not qualifications that are seen to meet the benchmark standard. The concept of these agreements is that a person recognised in one country as reaching the agreed international standard of competence should only be minimally assessed (primarily for local knowledge) prior to obtaining registration in another country that is party to the agreement.

The oldest such agreement is the *APEC Engineer agreement* which commenced in 1999. This has Government support in the participating APEC economies. The representative organization in each economy creates a "register" of those engineers wishing to be recognised as meeting the generic international standard. Other economies should give credit when such an engineer seeks to have his or her competence recognised. The Agreement is largely administered between engineering bodies, but there can be Government representation and substantive changes need to be signed off at governmental APEC Agreement level.

The *Engineers Mobility Forum agreement* commenced in 2001. It operates the same competence standard as the APEC Engineer agreement but any country/economy may join. The parties to the agreement are largely engineering bodies. There are intentions to draw EMF and APEC closer together.

The *Engineering Technologist Mobility Forum agreement* was signed by participating economies/countries in 2003. The parties to the Agreement have agreed to commence establishing a mutual recognition scheme for engineering technologists

The Washington Accord

The Washington Accord, signed in 1989, is an international agreement among bodies responsible for accrediting engineering degree programs. It recognizes the substantial equivalency of programs accredited by those bodies and recommends that graduates of programs accredited by any of the signatory bodies be recognized by the other bodies as having met the academic requirements for entry to the practice of engineering.

> **Signatories** have full rights of participation in the Accord; qualifications accredited or recognised by other signatories are recognised by each signatory as being substantially equivalent to accredited or recognised qualifications within its own jurisdiction.

- **Australia** - Represented by Engineers Australia (*1989*)
- **Canada** - Represented by Engineers Canada (*1989*)
- **Chinese Taipei** - Represented by Institute of Engineering Education Taiwan (*2007*)
- **Hong Kong China** - Represented by The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (*1995*)

- **Ireland** - Represented by Engineers Ireland (*1989*)
- **Japan** - Represented by Japan Accreditation Board for Engineering Education (*2005*)
- **Korea** - Represented by Accreditation Board for Engineering Education of Korea (*2007*)
- **New Zealand** - Represented by Institution of Professional Engineers NZ (*1989*)
- **Singapore** - Represented by Institution of Engineers Singapore (*2006*)
- **South Africa** - Represented by Engineering Council of South Africa (*1999*)
- **United Kingdom** - Represented by Engineering Council UK (*1989*)
- **United States** - Represented by Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (*1989*)

  Organisations holding provisional status have been identified as having qualification accreditation or recognition procedures that are potentially suitable for the purposes of the Accord; those organisations are further developing those procedures with the goal of achieving signatory status in due course; qualifications accredited or recognised by organisations holding provisional status are not recognised by the signatories

- **Germany** - Represented by German Accreditation Agency for Study Programs in Engineering and Informatics
- **India** - Represented by National Board of Accreditation of All India Council for Technical Education
- **Malaysia** - Represented by Board of Engineers Malaysia
- **Russia** - Represented by Russian Association for Engineering Education
- **Sri Lanka** - Represented by Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka

The Sydney Accord

Flowing from the Washington Accord, a similar Agreement was developed for Engineering Technologists or Incorporated Engineers, called the **Sydney Accord (SA)**, which was signed in June 2001.

Signatories have full rights of participation in the Accord; qualifications accredited or recognised by other signatories are recognised by each signatory as being substantially equivalent to accredited or recognised qualifications within its own jurisdiction.

- **Australia** - Represented by Engineers Australia (*2001*)
- **Canada** - Represented by Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists (*2001*)
- **Hong Kong China** - Represented by The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (*2001*)
- **Ireland** - Represented by Engineers Ireland (*2001*)
- **New Zealand** - Represented by Institution of Professional Engineers NZ (*2001*)
- **South Africa** - Represented by Engineering Council of South Africa (*2001*)
- **United Kingdom** - Represented by Engineering Council UK (*2001*)

  Organisations holding provisional status have been identified as having qualification accreditation or recognition procedures that are potentially suitable for the purposes of the Accord; those organisations are further developing those procedures with the goal of achieving signatory status in due course; qualifications accredited or recognised by organisations holding provisional status are not recognised by the signatories

- **United States** - Represented by Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology

Dublin Accord

The Dublin Accord is an agreement for the international recognition of Engineering Technician qualifications.

In May 2002 the national engineering organisations of the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, South Africa and Canada signed an agreement mutually recognising the qualifications which underpin the granting of Engineering Technician titles in the four countries.

Since then, two further economies have attained provisional membership, and are working towards signatory status. They are New Zealand and the United States.

Signatories have full rights of participation in the Accord; qualifications accredited or recognised by other signatories are recognised by each signatory as being substantially equivalent to accredited or recognised qualifications within its own jurisdiction.

- **Canada** - Represented by Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists (*2002*)

- **Ireland** - Represented by Engineers Ireland (*2002*)
- **South Africa** - Represented by Engineering Council of South Africa (*2002*)
- **United Kingdom** - Represented by Engineering Council UK (*2002*)

Organisations holding provisional status have been identified as having qualification accreditation or recognition procedures that are potentially suitable for the purposes of the Accord; those organisations are further developing those procedures with the goal of achieving signatory status in due course; qualifications accredited or recognised by organisations holding provisional status are not recognised by the signatories

- **New Zealand** - Represented by Institution of Professional Engineers NZ(2006)
- **United States** - Represented by Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology(2007)
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Engineers Mobility Forum

The Engineers Mobility Forum agreement is a multi-national agreement between engineering organisations in the member jurisdictions which creates the framework for the establishment of an international standard of competence for professional engineering, and then empowers each member organization to establish a section of the International Professional Engineers Register.

The standard of competence applied is the same as for the APEC Engineer agreement. Most of the APEC agreement members are also members of the EMF agreement, but the latter is truly global so that countries such as the United Kingdom, Ireland and South Africa have become members of EMF even though they cannot join the APEC agreement.

Members have full rights of participation in the agreement; each operates a national section of the International Professional Engineer (IntPE) register; registrants on these national sections may receive credit when seeking registration or licensure in the jurisdiction of another member.

- **Australia** - Represented by Engineers Australia (*1997*)
- **Canada** - Represented by Engineers Canada (*1997*)
- **Hong Kong China** - Represented by The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (*1997*)
- **Ireland** - Represented by Engineers Ireland (*1997*)

- **Japan** - Represented by Institution of Professional Engineers Japan (*1999*)
- **Korea** - Represented by Korean Professional Engineers Association (*2000*)
- **Malaysia** - Represented by Institution of Engineers Malaysia (*1999*)
- **New Zealand** - Represented by Institution of Professional Engineers NZ (*1997*)
- **Singapore** - Represented by Institution of Engineers Singapore (*2007*)
- **South Africa** - Represented by Engineering Council of South Africa (*1997*)
- **Sri Lanka** - Represented by Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka (*2007*)
- **United Kingdom** - Represented by Engineering Council UK (*1997*)
- **United States** - Represented by United States Council for International Engineering Practice (*1997*)

  Provisional Members have been identified as having competence assessment systems developing towards equivalence to those of full Members; they do not currently operate national sections of the International Professional Engineer register.

- **Bangladesh** - Represented by Bangladesh Professional Engineers, Registration Board
- **Chinese Taipei** - Represented by Chinese Taipei APEC Engineer Monitoring Committee
- **India** - Represented by Institution of Engineers India

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC Engineer)

There is an agreement in place between a number of APEC countries for the purposes of recognising "substantial equivalence" of professional competence in engineering. APEC countries can apply to become members of the agreement by demonstrating that they have in place systems which allow the competence of engineers to be assessed to the agreed international standard set by the APEC Engineer agreement.

Benefits

Registration on the IPER register with APEC Engineer ensures that professional engineers have the opportunity to have their professional standing recognised within the APEC region thereby contributing to the globalisation of professional engineering services. This is of particular benefit to engineering firms that are providing services to other APEC economies but it also adds value to individuals who may wish, at some

stage, to work in these economies.

Each member economy of the APEC agreement has given an undertaking that the extra assessment required to be registered on the local professional engineering register will be minimised for those registered under the APEC Engineer agreement.

APEC Engineer Member Economies

> **Members** of the agreement have full rights of participation in the agreement; each operates either a national section of the APEC Engineer register or a national section of a combined APEC Engineer/International Professional Engineer (IntPE) register; registrants on these national sections may receive credit when seeking registration or licensure in the jurisdiction of another member.

- **Australia** - Represented by Engineers Australia (*2000*)
- **Canada** - Represented by Engineers Canada (*2000*)
- **Chinese Taipei** - Represented by Chinese Taipei APEC Engineer Monitoring Committee (*2005*)
- **Hong Kong China** - Represented by The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (*2000*)
- **Indonesia** - Represented by Persatuan Insinyur Indonesia (Institution of Engineers) (*2001*)
- **Japan** - Represented by Institution of Professional Engineers Japan (*2000*)
- **Korea** - Represented by Korean Professional Engineers Association (*2000*)
- **Malaysia** - Represented by Institution of Engineers Malaysia (*2000*)
- **New Zealand** - Represented by Institution of Professional Engineers NZ (*2000*)
- **Philippines** - Represented by Professional Regulatory Board (*2003*)
- **Singapore** - Represented by Institution of Engineers Singapore (*2005*)
- **Thailand** - Represented by Council of Engineers Thailand (*2003*)
- **United States** - Represented by United States Council for International Engineering Practice (*2001*)

Engineering Technologist Mobility Forum

As a result of an agreement by the Sydney Accord signatories to explore mutual recognition for experienced engineering technologists, representatives of the engineering profession in each of the signatories to the Sydney Accord met in Sydney in November 1999, and Thornybush South Africa in June 2001.

The participants in these meetings, having exchanged information on, and made a preliminary assessment of, their respective processes, policies and procedures for granting recognition to experienced engineering technologists, concluded that these were sufficiently comparable to justify further examination. They agreed on the broad principles of a framework which might enable progress towards removing artificial barriers to the free movement and practice of engineering technologists amongst their countries. An agreement was reached on the principles and outline processes by which the substantial equivalence in competence of experienced engineering technologists could be established. This Agreement is known as the Engineering Technologist Mobility Forum Memorandum of Understanding (ETMF MOU)

> **Members** have full rights of participation in the agreement; each operates a national section of the International Engineering Technologist (IntET) register; registrants on these national sections may receive credit when seeking registration or licensure in the jurisdiction of another member.

- **Canada** - Represented by Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists (*2001*)
- **Hong Kong China** - Represented by The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (*2001*)
- **Ireland** - Represented by Engineers Ireland (*2001*)
- **New Zealand** - Represented by Institution of Professional Engineers NZ (*2001*)
- **South Africa** - Represented by Engineering Council of South Africa (*2001*)
- **United Kingdom** - Represented by Engineering Council UK (*2001*)

Acknowledge

The reader should be advised that all the above information is sourced and copied from http://www.washingtonaccord.org/.