Schools of Engineering at the Forefront - Meeting Challenges of the Engineering Profession

13-15 April 2016, London, UK
University College London (UCL)

Discussing the future of Engineering Education, Research and Innovation

ECED is an annual networking event by CESAER and SEFI that brings together Deans of Engineering on current issues in engineering education and research. ECED 2016 is organized by the University College London (UCL) Centre for Engineering Education (CEE), the Conference of European Schools for Advanced Engineering Education and Research (CESAER) and the European Society for Engineering Education (SEFI). It will be held at UCL’s Bloomsbury campus in the west-end of London.

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Three sessions

The convention is composed of three interlinked sessions, which follow a general theme relevant to deans of engineering. Being a convention for deans (who carry the operational and strategic responsibility for schools of engineering), the convention has a strong focus on how to execute this leadership. The overall purpose of the convention is to help deans of engineering to find inspiration. One important key to this is to facilitate networking among participants both during and after the convention.

The three sessions are:

▪ Session I: Engineering Education: Meeting the Engineering Profession’s needs
▪ Session II: Engineering Research and Innovation: Meeting the needs of Sustainable Development
▪ Session III: Engineering Schools to Adapt to Changes: How much, how fast - and in what way?

For each session there is a chair and a rapporteur. A session is composed of two plenary formats, one networking activity (see below), and concluded with a wrap-up plenary where a report is generated that will be carried forward to the conclusions of the convention (Session IV). The first two sessions (I and II) are “extrovert” sessions, where the society’s needs for engineering education and engineering research are examined. The third session is an “introvert” session, where input from Session I and II will be analysed and developed by participants.
The conclusions

The ambition for the convention is to draw up an agenda of items and issues that deans of engineering have to deal with in the near future (12 months). This will be called the **London Agenda**. Input to this agenda will come from the three session reports and from the networking activity. It is our ambition that such an agenda will inspire deans to continue contacting each other in a collaborative fashion in-between our conventions.

Session formats

It has become a tradition that ECED is inventive with the session formats in order to enhance networking and mutual inspiration amongst its participants. This year there are two different plenary session formats mixed with the successful **break-out group discussions** introduced as a central element of ECED in previous years.

One new format for ECED 2016 is the **panel discussions**, which are sessions where 3 keynote speakers sit in a panel and each give a 7 minute warm-up statement. This is followed by a lengthy plenary discussion with ample time for the audience to engage in dialogue with the panelists and with each other.

Another new format is the **YouTube keynotes**, which is a completely novel format in this context. The YouTube session format is inspired from two things which are already familiar: i) the idea of the Flipped Classroom, which is known from e-learning teaching styles, and ii) personalized YouTube channels, which are intensively used by many current students. The YouTube keynote begins several weeks before the actual convention. A keynote speaker will record a video (5-10 minutes) with his/her core message. This is uploaded to the ECED YouTube Channel. All registered participants are asked to watch this video BEFORE the convention begins. (Hence – a “Flipped Convention”). On top of this, all participants will have the opportunity to record their own videos (max. 2 minutes) in response and upload them to the ECED YouTube Channel. Log in and password information is publicly shared. When the time comes to meet IRL (“in real life”), the keynote speaker will give a short kick-off recap of the cyber activity and quickly engage in dialogue, debate and discussions with the audience.

Networking

The format of the break-out group discussions will be used as the main tool in all main sessions. These discussions will help participants to better digest and further discuss what has been presented and discussed during the plenaries. Another advantage will be that the break-out group discussions organize participants in smaller groups of 8-12 people which give them a chance to get to know each other better. The break-out group discussions will be prepared such that the groups are predefined for the whole convention. Each group will also have a facilitator who moderates the issues discussed - summarizing them in one or two statements per topic discussed to be handed over to the rapporteur of the session.

A special additional networking experience will be a visit to the British Museum (which is a short walk from the conference venue).