

CAETS 2019

Sustainable Development Goals side meeting on 24 June 2019

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Chair: David Thomlinson

Countries present: Argentina, Australia, Japan, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden, UK, USA

Key points of discussion:

- The need to recognise and communicate the pivotal importance of engineering to meet the SDGs
- To link into government where possible, reporting and assessing progress etc.
- To focus on brand awareness and using the SDGs as an attraction to engineering, and being at the heart of creating a better world
- Engineering education, are people ready to meet the challenges?
- Liaising with other external parties where appropriate (including private sector and academia)

Other points of discussion:

- For some countries, the SDGs are owned in the international development portions of government rather than being fully embedded in national life.
- This also lead to issues for countries with severe inequality in national borders because of the perceived focus on developing countries
- Japan are working to incorporate the SDGs into policy
- For some it is felt that the goals present an opportunity to position the Academies beyond operating project by project at a technical level, but operating at a higher level to help government implement.
- Concern that compliance to SDGs can create a bureaucracy
- Need more engineers in government
- The role of 'tackling global challenges' in attracting others into engineering, perhaps especially women
- Engineering education has not really changed in decades - and currently no link to the social purpose of engineering
- Question of prestige of engineering, different around the world
- Engineering education in the UK deep dive to get people more ready for dealing with the SDGs, intention is to have case studies internationally
- UN discussions so that they see the role of engineering now! And then can later consider what post SDGs could be
- CAETS as a connector