

## World Engineers' Convention 2011 in Geneva

**September 2011 will see Geneva become the key international venue for engineers. The World Engineers' Convention 2011 (WEC 2011) seeks to encourage innovative engineering aimed at solving the problem of globally sustainable use of energy.**

How can we provide sufficient energy for everyone around the globe? How can we meet the energy needs of the world's population fairly? How can we prevent conflicts over energy? These are just a few of the burning issues to be addressed by WEC 2011.

Engineers from all over the world will get together in Geneva from 4-9 September 2011. The title of the convention, *Engineers Power the World – Facing the Global Energy Challenge*, reflects its focus on energy as one of the greatest challenges of the 21st century. It will promote sustainable use and identify future-proof solutions in the areas of mobility and transport, urban development and construction, energy conversion, logistics, renewable energy and storage, and rational end use and large consumers.

### Keynotes from All Over the World

Following on from Hanover (2000), Shanghai (2004) and Brasilia (2008), this will be the fourth WEC. More than 2000 delegates from 100 countries are expected in the host city of Geneva. The convention attracts decision-makers from all over the world: Prestigious keynote speakers, like Nobuo Tanaka, Director of the International Energy Agency based in Paris, Professor Hiroshi Komiyama, President of the University of Tokyo, Prof. Dr.-Ing. Anke Rita Kaysser-Pyzalla, Scientific Director and Chief Executive of the Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin in Germany, or Professor Chris Edward from Stanford University have already confirmed their participation. "Everyone interested in thinking outside the box about energy will take inspiration from WEC 2011 in Geneva", concluded Daniel Favrat, EPFL Professor and Chair of the WEC 2011 Program Committee, speaking at the WEC 2008 closing ceremony in Brasilia. "WEC 2011 isn't just for engineers, it's also for representatives of business, government and education".

### Talkshop

The convention will provide a major opportunity to gain an overview by reviewing, discussing and sharing engineering opinion. Its broad perspective will extend beyond scientific and technical aspects to consider

ways of influencing the socioeconomic and political framework. Sharing policies, technology transfer, the North-South divide and the need for creativity and entrepreneurial activities will also not be forgotten. Alongside the energy theme, WEC 2011 also aims to raise the profile of the engineering profession. Young people should see engineering as an attractive career option. The general public needs to gain a better understanding of the importance of engineering in achieving prosperity and tackling the big challenges of the future.

One highlight of the closing ceremony of WEC 2011 in Geneva will be the passing of a resolution answering the burning energy issues. These hot topics will be considered through a process of international discussion conducted between national engineering associations, universities and other organizations.

### **Working with Prestigious Partners for a World-class Outcome**

Switzerland was mandated to host WEC 2011 by the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO), the association of national engineering organizations from more than 90 countries, representing some 15 million engineers worldwide. The organizational aspects have been entrusted to the Swiss organizations Swiss Engineering STV, SIA, Electrosuisse and FTAL. Swiss partners include the two Federal Institutes of Technology in Zurich (ETHZ) and Lausanne (EPFL), the Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences (SATW), Swiss universities of applied sciences, the Swiss Federal Government, and industry and business associations. International partners include UNESCO and FEANI (the European Federation of National Engineering Associations).

The Program Committee includes representatives of ETH, EPFL, the Paul Scherrer Institute, Switzerland's Federal Energy Commission, and international experts including representatives of the Association of German Engineers (VDI) and the US Alliance of Engineering Associations.

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### **Engineers Power the World – Facing the Global Energy Challenge**

4-9 September 2011

International Conference Center Geneva (CICG), Switzerland

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Supporting entities include the international organizations UNESCO and FEANI, and the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO). Organization has been entrusted to the Swiss organizations Swiss Engineering STV, SIA, Electrosuisse and FTAL.