
Opening Welcome*

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Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the UNESCO International Centre for Engineering Education (UICEE) powerful family of engineering educators who see global education as an essential way forward for a better future.

I would remind you today that we are committed through working with the UICEE to realise UNESCO's *raison d'être*:

To contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science and culture in order to further universal respect for justice; for rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion; by the Charter of the UN.

As we look back over the past year at the tensions that exist in the world, there could not be a more appropriate time to work towards a global understanding and to support and collaborate with our developing neighbours. We, through this unique network of satellite centres with the UICEE, now have the opportunity to work towards global inclusion, toleration and understanding by developing good communication across our global network. It is in this spirit that I hope that we can move forward into this Congress and hopefully make our contribution to world peace by maintaining communication and understanding through the UICEE movement.

Scotland may be a small country, but Scotland has played a major role globally. Long before electronic technologies and modern communication developed, the entrepreneurial Scots were seeking adventure in many parts of the world. Here are but a few examples. David Livingstone is known throughout the

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world for trailblazing through Africa as a missionary, an explorer and a scientist. Henry Dundas became known as *the uncrowned King of Scotland*, mainly because of the power he wielded through the East India Company. Sir John MacDonald became the first Prime Minister of Canada and was the driving force behind the building of the Canadian Pacific Railroad. For three decades, Scots led this magnificent country. Then, of course, there was Andrew Carnegie who became an iron, steel and railways tycoon, as well as becoming a well-known philanthropist.

Scotland has made a considerable contribution to developments across the world. Again, I give you but a few examples from the multitude of successes. Glasgow North British Locomotive (Engineering) Company was world famous for making many of world's railways. As an island, Scotland was home to three of the greatest shipping companies: P&O, Cunard and the British India Steam Navigation Company.

By the 19th Century, more Scots had migrated than lived in Scotland. However, we can consider that this may have much to do with our dislike to rain.

You have come to the right place to talk about global engineering education: to Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU), a university that, through its values, supports social inclusion and life-long learning, and which has a history of going global while at the same time supporting all the ideas found in UNESCO's *raison d'être*.

Today, we have with us our colleagues from one of our very successful global ventures, which was started in 1995 and has led to the Caledonian College of Engineering in Muscat, Oman, now recognised as a University College in Oman awarding GCU degrees in engineering. I am proud to say that I provided the leadership in the early days of development and have continued to be involved with its developing profile to the present.

Our latest venture at the leading edge of innovation has been to launch this year the Scottish Centre for Work-Based Learning and immediately to give it a global role by partnering it as a satellite centre with the UNESCO International Centre for Engineering Education.

We are also looking forward at this Congress to further extending our global links by the University signing Memoranda of Agreement with the Kigali Institute of Science Technology and Management, Kigali, Rwanda, and with Tomsk Polytechnic University, Tomsk, Russia. This is a wonderful example of how the satellite network of the UICEE can work together and interact to mutual benefit.

With all this in mind, I welcome you on behalf of the Faculty of Science and Technology to another set of lively discussions on global cooperation as engineering educators where I hope more new collaborations are initiated.