

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Accreditation of Engineering Education: Option or Necessity



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Keynote Abstract

With world considered as a “global village” the higher education is currently undergoing new and dramatic changes, which has pros and cons for the survival of a society. Furthermore, the technological revolution of 20th century has restricted the liberation of mind of the seeker of knowledge and focused around national and regional prosperity through application of technical knowledge. The increasing demand for higher education worldwide has resulted in mushrooming of offshore campuses, private institutions and franchising arrangements to cater this demand. Concurrently, regional and global trade agreements are encouraging the movement of professional services, capital and individuals across national borders. These new models and practices raise the questions about the responsibility for the quality of education that is delivered. We need a global definition of the quality of education based on some common evaluation criteria. As a result international system of licensure, certification and accreditation are emerging as a powerful tool to ensure quality and mobility. Is there a need for an accreditation of engineering programs in universities around the globe? In our opinion it is a must for survival, to remain competitive, have increased agility and developing niche in focused areas.

ABET, an internationally accepted accreditation body, is a title to assure quality of engineering programs in USA and abroad. The system is matured and is serving well the needs of global society. The new criteria of outcomes assessment allow the institutions to upgrade its goal and find ways and means to achieve the set goals as a continuous process. This brings competitive culture in engineering education automatically assuring quality and cross-border recognition. The objective of this presentation is not only to establish the need for quality assurance through accreditation but also to highlight various accreditation bodies established around the globe. In addition, the rationale for the need of a Regional Accreditation Body will be put for discussion considering the regional character.

Bio:

Dr. Tasneem Pervez is an Associate Professor in the Mechanical and Industrial Engineering Department, College of Engineering at Sultan Qaboos University (SQU). He has received his Bachelor’s degree from NED University of Engineering & Technology, Karachi, Pakistan, and MS and Ph.D. degrees, all in Mechanical Engineering, from University of Minnesota, USA. He has been actively engaged in research and consulting work with various national and international organizations. His research interests are in CAE, FEM, Composite Materials and Solid Expandable Tubulars. He has served as an Associate Editor / member of editorial board for The Journal of Engineering, Research, Journal of Solids and Structures, IJMD, NED University Journal of Engineering and Disaster Journal. He has given invited talk on Solid Expandable Tubulars in many conference and technical forums. He has received Outstanding Faculty Award, Best paper awards and Best Researcher award in 1999, 2004, 2005 and 2008. A part from teaching, research and consultancy, he has actively participated in developing new engineering programs and accreditation process. He was instrumental in accreditation of engineering programs in both IIUM and SQU specially focusing on Continuous Quality Improvement Process. He has presented various papers related to accreditation in various conferences and conducted 2-5 days workshops on accreditation to 8 different universities in Middle East countries.