

PRESS RELEASE

Paris, France, September, 1998

The World Federation of Technical Assessment Organizations (WFTAO), is an independent organization dedicated “to exchange and promote the role of Technical Assessments of innovative and non standardized systems and products in the construction field worldwide”.

It has been created in September 1996 held its second meeting in September 1997 in Ottawa (Canada) and its third meeting in August 1998 in Melbourne (Australia) at the invitation of ABSAC (Australian Building Systems Appraisal Council) which hosted and chaired the meeting.

Let us recall that the term technical assessment means an authoritative favourable declaration of technical fitness for an intended use of an innovative or non standardized construction product systems or process. And the aim of WFTAO is to promote the role of Technical Assessment and facilitate the transfer of national construction industry products to the global marketplace. This implies an awareness and understanding of Technical Assessment by public authorities, regulators, manufacturers, constructors, designers and others.

WFTAO had already set up in the past :

- a WFTAO mission statement, vision and objectives
- Statutes

The following documents related to Technical Assessments for the file of the organization were finalized :

- “Format for exchange of Technical Assessment”
- Questionnaire for proposed way of assessment
- Operational procedural rules to the Statutes
- Questionnaire for membership nominations
- Model liaison agreement for mutual recognition or consideration

At the above Melbourne meeting the main following decisions have been taken :

- the formalisation of membership nominations on the basis of questionnaires filled by the members

WFTAO comprises now 25 formal members representing 21 countries quoted in the Appendix

- the setting up of a web site of WFTAO which will be managed by CSTB and which will be available early 1999
- the setting up of a logo for the Organisation.
- the new following tasks that shall be undertaken by WFTAO
 - open discussion on several management matters related to technical assessments :
 - collaboration scheme in technical assessment under the liaison agreement of WFTAO
 - present problem/difficulty in the process of testing and evaluation of foreign products
- Follow up of the discussion on the hereafter working items :
 - EIFS (external insulation and finishes system)
 - costing structure questions (sources of revenues of technical assessment)
 - durability in technical assessments.

It was noticed too that if all the WFTAO bodies are involved in the technical assessments of building products and systems, some of them are involved too is the technical assessments of roads, bridges and civil engineering items.

The next WFTAO meeting will take place in Japan in October 1999.

And the Agenda of this meeting will deal with the above items.

For more information on WFTAO contact :

WFTAO members in your country, or

The General Secretary:

Emile Farhi at CSTB

4, avenue du Recteur Poincaré

75782 Paris Cédex 16 (France)

Phone : 33-1-40-50-28-28

Fax : 33-1-45-25-61-51

e-mail : farhi@cstb.fr

Updated list of members of WFTAO (September 1998)

Australia	ABSAC (Australian Building Systems Appraisal Council)
Brazil	IPT (Instituto de Pesquisas Tecnologicas de Estado de Sao Paulo SA)
Canada	CCMC (Canadian Construction Materials Centre)
Czech Republic	TZUS Prague (Technicky a Zkusebni Ústav Stavebni – Praha)
Denmark	ETA-DANMARK
Finland	VTT Building Technology (Valtion Teknillinen Tutkimuskeskus)
France	CSTB (Centre Scientifique et Technique du Bâtiment)
Hungary	EMI Plc (Epitesügyi Minőségellenőrző Innováció/RT)
Israel	NBRI (National Building Research Institute)
Italy	ICITE (Istituto Centrale per l'Industrializzazione e la Tecnologia Edilizia)
Japan	BCJ (Building Centre of Japan) CBL (Centre for Better Living) HOWTEC (Japan Housing and Wood Technology Centre)
New Zealand	BRANZ (Building Research Association of New Zealand)
Norway	NBI (Norges Byggeforskningsinstitutt)
Poland	ITB (Instytut Techniki Budowlanej)
Portugal	LNEC (Laboratorio Nacional de Engenharia Civil)
Romania	INCERC (Institutul de Cercetari in Constructii si Economia Constructiilor)
South Africa	A.S.A. (Agrément South Africa)
Spain	IETcc (Instituto de Ciencias de la Construcción Eduardo Torroja)
United Kingdom	BBA (British Board of Agrément)
United States	NES (National Evaluation Services, Inc.) ICBO Evaluation Service, Inc. CERF (Civil Engineering Foundation Centre)
Russia	FCC (Federal Centre of Certification in construction of Russia's Ministry)

