



**WORLD FEDERATION OF TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT ORGANISATIONS**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**WORLD FEDERATION OF TECHNICAL  
ASSESSMENT ORGANISATIONS  
ADOPTS RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR  
MULTI-LATERAL PRODUCT ASSESSMENTS**

... Federation Elects New General Secretary...

Rotorua, New Zealand – Overlooking scenic Lake Rotorua in the remains of a volcanic crater, members of the World Federation of Technical Assessment Organisations held their eighth annual meeting on 15-17 October 2003. Once again, the topic of facilitating the movement of innovative construction products topped the agenda.

A major outcome of the meeting was the approval of a new guideline document, developed over several years, which will improve the simultaneous assessment of an innovative construction product by two or more member organizations. The new guideline, WFTAO Procedure for Multi-lateral Technical Assessments, maps out a recommended procedure intended to eliminate duplication and unnecessary delays—ultimately saving time and money for the product proponent.

A technical assessment is an authoritative declaration from a recognized organization that an innovative or non-standardized product is suitable for its intended use. Without existing standards against which to judge performance, the assessment organizations develop appropriate performance criteria for a specific product and application.

Another highlight of the meeting was the election of Mr. Thomas Bruun from ETA-Danmark as its new General Secretary. He succeeded Mr. John Berndt, former Manager of the Canadian Construction Materials Centre (CCMC), who has just completed two consecutive two-year terms as General Secretary. CCMC is one of the founding members of the WFTAO and has contributed significantly to the evolution of the organization.

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The Federation comprises 23 assessment agencies from 21 different countries from the three major trading areas: the Americas, Europe, and the Pacific Rim. As part of its mandate, the Federation encourages other organizations involved in the technical assessment of innovative and non-standardized products for the construction industry to join.

The British Board of Agrément (BBA) took the opportunity at this meeting to deliver a report, "Assessment of Windows Approved by the Canadian Construction Materials Centre," to CCMC. The report represents a major step forward in a joint BBA-CCMC initiative to facilitate the acceptance of Canadian-made windows in the United Kingdom. Canadian windows that had been tested to meet the Canadian standard were retested in the U.K. to confirm the results of an earlier study.

Other outcomes of the meeting included the following:

- The Federation decided to register the WFTAO logo internationally in order to protect its identity.
- Members confirmed the level of quality control needed for technical assessment organizations and for the test laboratories they use.

For more information on the World Federation of Technical Assessment Organisations, visit <http://www.wftao.com> or contact:

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