

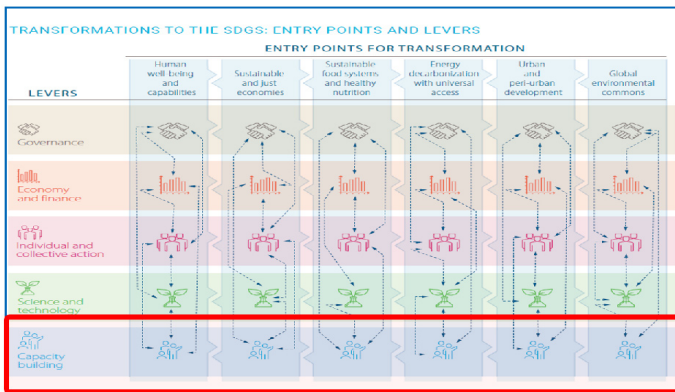
“ Engineering capacity building is the cornerstone of sustainable progress. Through lifelong learning, technology transfer, and partnerships—especially in AI and digital innovation—we are not only training engineering practitioners but also empowering nations to transform their economies and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Engineers are architects of hope and the providers of quality life for all. Through capacity building, we unlock innovation, resilience, and a better future for all.

**Martin Manuhwa,
Chair of CECB,
Engineering Council of Zimbabwe**

It is a fact that all economies require capacity building to support decisive and transformative action through any entry point.

As shown in the below image, Capacity building must be applied cohesively with and in support of other levers, including governance, business and finance, individual and collective action, and science and technology.



Capacity Building is Entry Points and Levers for Transformations to the SDGs Photo: 2023 Source: p2, Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) 2023 Key Message

CECB plays a pivotal role in ensuring global engineering standards and strengthening North-South partnerships. The committee collaborates with other committees on enhancing engineering education, accreditation, and CPD. Strengthening engineering policies, governance, and technology transfer for sustainable development is our key mandate.

The following are the themes, outcomes and deliverables the STC on Capacity Building worked on for 2023-2025 period:

- Engineering Capacity Building Publications (webinars, newsletters, magazines);
- Engineering Capacity Building Awareness, Training and Development of Systems, events (Africa Engineering Week, Congresses, and Workshops).

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



CECB aims to promote SDG 17 through strong institutions to strengthen North-South cooperation, South-South and triangular cooperation, while considering different national circumstances to build capacity for and improve access to science, technology and innovation and to increase resources for the implementation of technical and scientific initiatives such as the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (IDSSD).

CECB has created Partnerships, Global Alliances, and Networking Initiatives to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Enhancement of international cooperation and capacity-building efforts to bridge the digital divide and ensure that all can safely and securely reap the benefits of digital technologies, through digital capacity development in developing countries and support for local content development.

- Engineering Capacity Building Projects and co-operative initiatives. (Compendium, Digital Platform for CPDs, MOOC, e-Books for CECB in conjunction with Sib0 the Engineer);



The WFE0 CECB CHAIR, Dr. Eng Marin Manuhwa, on the sidelines of the 2025 UN STI Forum, UN HQ, New York, May 2025

Engineering Capacity Building is a journey toward a prosperous and empowered humanity through continuous improvement and a relentless pursuit of solutions that enhance the quality of life.



From left to right: Ms. Zhang Zhen, Secretary-General, Preparatory Committee of the International Federation of Engineering Societies for the Belt and Road; Mr. Zhou Daya, Director-General, Center for Professional Training and Services of CAST, Executive Deputy Secretary-General, CSE; Ms. Luo Hui, Director-General, CAST's Department of International Cooperation and CSE's Vice President and Co-Secretary-General; Eng. Dr. Martin Manuhwa and Mr. WANG Guanyi, Head of ECBAP Programme at CAST HQ



Prof Gong Ke, the Task force Chair for the WFEO Engineering Capacity Building for Africa Programme (ECBAP); Prof Dawn Bonfield, Commonwealth Engineering Council (CEC) President; Dr. Eng. Martin Manuhwa WFEO CECB, and Dr. Seng Chuan Tan the WFEO President-Elect, at the BRST Conference in Chengdu, China

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat convened a three-day high-level retreat for Member States' Trade in Services (TiS) Focal Points (FPs) on 25-27 March 2024 in Irene, Pretoria, South Africa. WFEO CECB was represented by Dr Martin Manuhwa.

The retreat aimed to develop a shared understanding of the developments, strategies/approaches, opportunities, and challenges in negotiating and implementing regional TiS commitments, to inform the preparation of a SADC Trade in Services Strategy and Action Plan.

Key achievements

The CECB Chair attended the BRST Conference and presented a paper on "Development of Engineering Capacity through International Accords and Global South Collaboration" in Chengdu, China. The Commonwealth Engineering Council (CEC), CECB, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the UN University were invited to panel discussion on the Belt and Road Forum on Engineering Capacity Building. This event was held in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, from 10 to 12 June 2025. Building on the success of the first conference, the second BRST is themed on "Together for Innovation, Development for All".

Last 9 and 10 April 2025, Eng. Dr. Martin Manuhwa, CECB Chair, met in Beijing with Ms. Luo Hui, Director-General of the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) Department of International Cooperation, and Vice President and Co-Secretary-General of the Chinese Society of Engineers (CSE). The meeting with CAST emphasized the need for collaboration and cooperation with WFEO. South-South as well as North-South collaboration makes the world a better place.

CECB partnered with the Federation of Engineering Institutions of Asia and the Pacific (FEIAP) and the Pan American Federation of Engineering Societies (UPADI) in the Africa, Asia and the Pacific Accord.

The Engineering Capacity Building for Africa Programme (ECBAP) is the WFEO Committee's signature project.

CECB is the host for SIBO the Engineer Project that supports the uptake of engineering at a young age.

The retreat also considered the findings and recommendations of the study on "How to Improve SADC Services Sector Competitiveness to Take Advantage of African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) Market Access Opportunities" and the development of the SADC TiS Strategy and Action Plan. Mutual Recognition Agreements for professionals were discussed.



Members of the Panel on Mutual Recognition Agreements pause for a picture after the Industrialisation Week Meeting in Harare on 27 July 2024. CECB represented SAFEQ and FAEO