

Flash info collects short information of general interest. The FEANI Secretariat General prepares it and each contribution from National Members is welcome. This Flash info is distributed by E-mail to National Members, EUR ING's and the distribution list can be extended by request at the Secretariat General of FEANI.

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▪ **FEANI events and meetings in autumn 2005**

- 1) Executive Board 'Strategic Workshop' 11/12 November 2005- in Genval near Brussels
- 2) European Monitoring Committee (EMC) meeting 24/25 November 2005 – in Brussels

▪ **FEANI Annual Business meeting 2005**

From 28-30 September 2005, FEANI held its Annual Business meetings in Athens, Greece. This included a General Assembly on 30 September which was attended by 24 of its 26 National Members (NMs) of FEANI (the NMs of Estonia and Luxembourg could not be present). At the Assembly, a new President of FEANI was elected, Dr. Willi Fuchs from Germany. He follows Mr. Alexopoulos from Greece who had finished his second and thus last (according to the Statutes) term as President and was awarded the title 'Honorary President' at the same occasion given his commitment and achievements during the six years of his presidency. Several other officers were elected – for the composition of the new FEANI Board see our website [www.feani.org](http://www.feani.org), section 'Presentation – Executive Board'.

In addition to the different reports on the activities and achievements of the past year, the presentation of the financial results and the budget for the next year, an important part of the Assembly was dedicated to the presentation of FEANI's approach and next steps in the framework of the recently adopted European Directive on Recognition of Professional Qualifications (2005/36/EC), which had been discussed and agreed during a 'Mobility Workshop' the day before the General Assembly.

The discussion in the Workshop was based on the surveys on the Regulation of the profession and Formation and the protection of Professional Titles in the European countries which the FEANI Secretariat General had conducted with the contributions of its National Members. The Survey Results including the decisions taken by the General Assembly are now available on the FEANI website [www.feani.org](http://www.feani.org) under 'Feani News / Flash\_Info'.

The above activities will certainly be a vital part of the priorities of the new Executive Board of FEANI. Indeed, a Strategic Workshop will take place on 11/12 November 2005 where the new Board will define its visions, missions, and projects in a Strategic Plan 2006-2009. The next Flash will give you more information on this.

FEANI thanks the outgoing officers, former President Mr. Alexopoulos and the former Board Members Messrs. Crepain (Belgium) Fluxá Ceva (Spain), Shannon (UK) and Trolle (Sweden) for their work and wishes them all the best for their professional and personal future.

For more information:

FEANI website for the Surveys on Regulation and Formation: in special News on [www.feani.org](http://www.feani.org)

EU Commission website for the Directive on Recognition of Professional Qualifications:

[www.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/JOhtml.do?uri=OJ:L:2005:255:SOM:EN:HTML](http://www.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/JOhtml.do?uri=OJ:L:2005:255:SOM:EN:HTML)

**▪ EUR-ACE project: Trial Accreditations**

The EUR-ACE project is entering in the Trial Accreditations phase. Several universities have invited observers, partners or experts of the EUR-ACE project to visit them for this important part of the project. This phase will provide indications on the working of the EUR-ACE procedures.

It is also foreseen that the major part of the EUR-ACE Trial Accreditations will be conducted in parallel to actual accreditation procedures run by projects partners, the accreditation team, should then use also the EUR-ACE Standards and check in particular similarities and differences with the national practice. Whenever possible, a EUR-ACE observer should participate in these exercises.

For more information: <http://www.feani.org> , section EUR-ACE (Reports and Outputs/ Accreditation standards)

**▪ Wanted: Civil Engineers**

Shortage of Engineers? Everybody knows the figures on the shortage of engineers (and Scientists) in Europe by 2010 (read the FEANI Flash\_Info n°10). An article in the (American) Civil Engineer magazine, issue of July 2005, shows that the situation in America is similar to the one in Europe.

It has become clear from several inquiries made on the students population is that engineering is not (or no more) a favourite education that students are choosing. The image of the engineers has significantly decreased.

Furthermore there seems that a need of specific skills that our modern society is requesting and that the engineering education is not (or has not) providing. The situation is not only European but seems to be a world wide fact, where in the enterprise of the future find we the engineering resources that they will need?

For more information read the FEANI Flash\_Info n°10, n°14, n°18 and <http://www.pubs.asce.org>

**▪ The European Social Model: Reconstruction or Destruction ?**

Meeting in Brussels on 14 July 2005. The EESC president, Mrs. Anne-Marie Sigmund, has taken the initiative of launching a series of meetings lectures/debates on the current and future nature of the European project: European values - European society - European identity. One of these meetings had for subject the European Social Model.

At this occasion Mrs. A. M. Sigmund had invited Mrs. Brigita Schmögnarovà, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the ENECE, to present and debate her book entitled "The European Social Model: Reconstruction or Destruction". In fact the ESM (European Social Model) is very little discussed in the new EU Member States. The crucial question is: Does a European Social Model actually exist and or does it need to be revised/modernized?

By discussing on the modernization of the ESM this should aim at developing new approaches that seek answers to such fundamental questions as: the sustainability of the ESM in ageing societies, how to make the ESM the driving force of the competitiveness in a globalised and knowledge-based economy and how to adjust the model to the need to respond to the new social uncertainties, to calls for flexibility in the increasingly competitive world.

For more information: see the book on the European Social Model and [http://www.esc.eu.int/president/thursdaymeetings/index\\_fr.asp](http://www.esc.eu.int/president/thursdaymeetings/index_fr.asp)

**▪ The European Commission's fifth Market Access Symposium**

*"To Lisbon and Beyond: Market Access and External Aspects of Competitiveness"*

The European Commission proposed a symposium on Market Access Strategy on 19 September 2005 in the European Parliament in Brussels. Since it launched the "Market Access Strategy for the EU" in 1996, the European Commission has had a continuous exchange of information with other EU Institutions, Member States and European industry and business. The Commission's regular Market Access symposia have contributed substantially to this dialogue, providing the Commission with detailed and strategic guidance on how to improve our access to third countries' market. 2005 being a crucial year for the Doha Development Agenda negotiations, this dialogue takes on even greater importance.

For more information: <http://mkaccdb.eu.int>

**▪ Conference corner**

*The conference corner presents you a non-exhaustive list of conferences for engineers dealing with education, communication and mobility.*

**1. After the tsunami conferences and seminars  
November 2005, Colombo, Sri Lanka**

After the organisation of the conference on "Reconstruction of Aceh" the *Asia-Pacific Development Review Events (ADR Events)* is proposing a second instalment of the After the Tsunami Series, Rebuilding Sri Lanka and beyond.

ADR is addressing development issues and organizations that shape the growth, development and reconstruction of the Asia Pacific region and addresses specifically business opportunities that arise in the development sector.

For more information: [www.adrtsunami.com](http://www.adrtsunami.com)

**▪ Sciences and Technology corner**

*The Sciences and Technology corner proposes some articles and extract of research or studies that have been reported to the FEANI Secretariat General.*

*This part is not exhaustive and does not intend to include all the studies.*

*If you know scientific or technological studies of general interest that can be announced, please send the information to: [luc.baude@feani.org](mailto:luc.baude@feani.org)*

**1. No more Silicon**

A team of researchers from Durham University, Imperial College London and University of Sheffield have demonstrated that the functions usually associated with transistor-based digital electronics can be emulated in all-metallic nanoscale devices made from ferromagnetic materials. The technology is based on the discovery by Professor Cowburn of Imperial's Department of Physics that it is possible to reproduce the key functions of semiconductor electronics in microchips using only the 'spin' of electrons, which is responsible for magnetism, rather than the more conventional 'charge' that traditional microchips use.

For more information: <http://www.theengineer.co.uk/Articles/292076/New+logic.htm>

**2. Ethanol offers fuel for thought**

Ethanol is one of the easiest forms of biomass to bring to widespread use. Produced from grain or sugar, it can be added to petrol and used in cars. Standard vehicle engines need no modification to use a small quantity of ethanol mixed with petrol. Estimates of exactly what this

quantity is vary: the ethanol business says up to 30 per cent, but others say 10 per cent is safer.

For more information:

[http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/common/story\\_page/0,5744,16413438%255E36375,00.html](http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5744,16413438%255E36375,00.html)

### **3. Nano-Switches could yield even smaller gadgets**

Gadgets seem to get smaller every day and the silicon-based technology used in most of today's electronics has to follow.

Now researchers have cooked up tiny Y-shaped tubes of carbon that act like electrical switches. The new tubes could someday become the foundation for ultraminiature electronics.

For more information:

[http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2005/08/0816\\_050816\\_carbontube.html](http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2005/08/0816_050816_carbontube.html)

### **4. Bubble, bubble spot the trouble**

A cancer screening technique that uses ultrasound to track the movement of tiny gas bubbles around a patient's blood system is claimed to be quicker and more accurate than existing diagnostic methods. Developed by engineers in Germany, the technique is being used at a number of European hospitals for the diagnosis of liver cancer. It is also being evaluated for potential use in cardiology and breast cancer screening.

For more information:

<http://www.theengineer.co.uk/Articles/292007/Bubble%2c+bubble%e2%80%a6spot+the+trouble.htm>

### **5. Tiny Fuel Cell May Power Portable Electronics**

Now chemical engineers at Purdue University, say they have come up with a solution to make our electronic devices dramatically more portable. Their new method produces hydrogen for fuel cells that would automatically recharge batteries in portable electronics, such as notebook computers, eliminating the need to use a wall outlet.

For more information:

[http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2005/08/0830\\_050830\\_minifuelcell.html](http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2005/08/0830_050830_minifuelcell.html)

### **6. Supercomputer's key to the brain**

The quest to simulate the mammalian brain on the world's most powerful supercomputer is neuroscience's most ambitious project yet. Blue Gene, the special made computer, combines 8,000 processors all working in parallel, talking to each other, compared to a forest of millions of neurons nestle inside your head which weave together to make your thoughts.

For more information: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/click\\_online/4165420.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/click_online/4165420.stm)