

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Oliver Nachevski
EWB-I President

Happy Anniversary to all our members worldwide! Engineers without Borders International (EWB-I) is celebrating 15 successful years of building and evolving engineering capacity throughout the world, and achieving sustainable development for the benefit of people everywhere. Thousands of implemented projects, relating to water and sanitation, waste, energy, education, and agriculture justify our crucial role in the improvement of the quality of life in many disadvantaged communities. After a fruitful 15 years of dedicated work, EWB-I still has much space for improvement: the update of the vision and values of the EWB-I network (movement) is in the final phase; a dedicated platform for EWB-I Member

Associations (MAs) for sharing information is being created; the clarity of the processes and procedures of EWB-I and the Executive Committee will be defined by the end of the year.

The new EWB-I Board is ready and eagerly facing the upcoming challenges. EWB-I is increasing its role and reputation as a responsible partner to many global funding institutions that recognize the huge potential and the capacity of the network. The awarded grants to several EWB MAs confirmed the trust that donors like Arconic and Tetra Tech have in EWB-I.

At the end of another amazing year – may the coming year bring you every success and happiness. I wish you all a **Happy New Year 2018!**

Sincerely,
Oliver Nachevski
EWB-I President

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Support to Three EWB-International Affiliates



Bechtel Group Foundation

Bechtel Group Foundation is providing US\$50,000 in gifts to support the 2018 operations of three EWB-International affiliates.

EWB-Chile is receiving a US\$20,000 gift. This is the first gift the Foundation has provided to EWB-Chile, which was created in 2016 by volunteers from Bechtel's Santiago office and Universidad Católica. The Foundation is also awarding US\$20,000 to EWB-Gabon, which works on projects in the capital city of Libreville. Bechtel employees have been active in EWB-Gabon since its founding in 2012. EWB-India is receiving a US\$10,000 gift. Bechtel became a lifetime member of this group in 2013.

Over the last seven years, the Foundation has invested nearly \$3.4 million in these EWB entities as well as those in Australia, Malaysia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. In addition to the Foundation's financial support, Bechtel employees have served as project managers and chapter leaders for the EWB movement. One of the firm's executives, Brian Reilly, serves on the board of directors for EWB-USA.

Engineers Without Borders is one of four global nonprofits supported by Bechtel and its employees. The others are DiscoverE, For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, and Junior Achievement Worldwide.

Advance and share good insurance practices



EWB - I Solar Rwanda

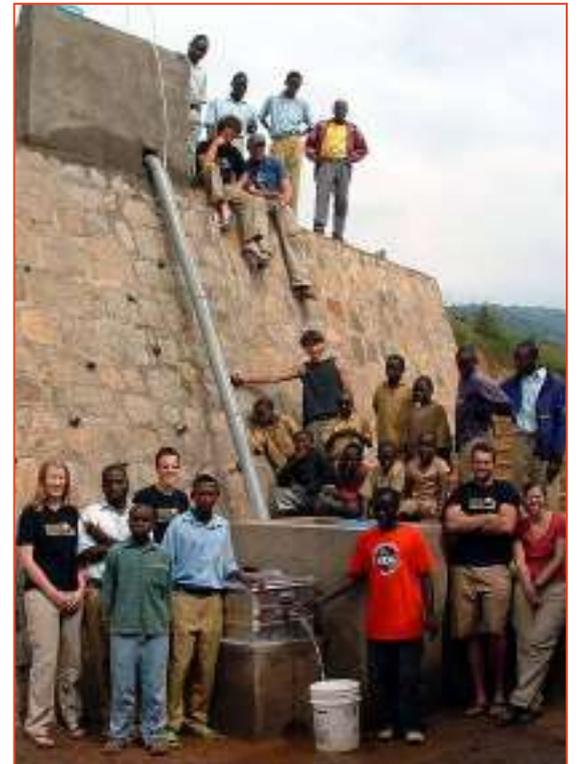
EWB International carried out an insurance survey of member associations worldwide, in the interest of sharing and advancing good insurance practices.

The survey focused on insurance in the following areas: professional liability (design and construction errors), individual volunteers (travel related injury, illness and project related issues), general liability (third-party injuries related to projects) and event insurance (third-party injury related to projects).

Of all the EWB associations who responded to the survey, only the EWB Australia and EWB USA holds insurance coverage in all of the categories listed.

According to the replies received, member associations from the other countries surveyed generally do not take out insurance policies for the areas specified, with two exceptions: concerning project-related coverage for individual volunteers, EWB Argentina and EWB Netherlands do subscribe to insurance.

Additional information from the Netherlands specifies that its volunteers are covered for travel during projects, including accident coverage but not construction activities—since their engineering participants are focused on providing support. The New Zealand group specified that its volunteers work as trainers rather than engineers, avoiding the need for additional insurance, since design responsibility lies with the partner organizations. Also, they do not need specific health insurance in New Zealand as they have a fully funded state healthcare system. To improve insurance practices and ensure their resilience, EWB organisations would be wise to examine the many options available for insurance and to consider what would suit its needs and budget.



EWB - I WaterCleaner

A brief about the organization

Engineers Without Borders Kuwait was established in 2012 with the mission of empowering poor communities around the world and help them meet their basic human needs by providing sustainable engineering solutions. The driving force behind EWB Kuwait is engineers of all disciplines who volunteer their time and expertise. EWB Kuwait has been able to build lasting relationships with local and international communities by partnering with organizations including other EWB chapters. Their goal is not simply to complete projects but further understand each community's needs. This helps them to grow and learn how to effectively tackle poverty in future projects.



EWB Kuwait in numbers:

17 engineers engaged in international projects impacting the lives of over 1000 students in rural villages.

6 houses have been renovated since 2016 in local underprivileged communities impacting the lives of 15 families, with 25 volunteers taking part.

17 conferences and workshops have been organized since 2014, spreading messages about the importance of sustainable development and of volunteering their skills, with over 1500 attendees and 140 volunteers.

Solar Power Project at Avani School for the Mentally Challenged



The boarding school is located 100 km from Mumbai in a remote area and has very modest facilities, including an unstable electricity supply. They constantly face power shortages and blackouts making it very dangerous for the children to spend their time outside, particularly given the area has dangerous wildlife roaming around the area at night. Furthermore, the electricity was provided directly from transmission lines with dangerously exposed wires. EWB Kuwait in collaboration with EWB Mumbai sent a team to provide and install a 1.5 KW solar energy system along with batteries and LED lights. The system was efficiently designed with 60 LED lights carefully and safely placed to illuminate the whole school.

Bayt Project



“Bayt”, meaning house in Arabic, is a continuous project started in 2016 aimed at helping local low-income families meet their basic human needs by renovating and fixing rundown and/or outdated houses. Many underprivileged local families live with outdated facilities and equipment hindering them in meeting their basic needs, and exposing them to harmful and dangerous living conditions. Since 2016, 6 houses have been renovated, positively impacting 15 families. Examples include updating dangerous and outdated kitchens, improving accessibility for people with special needs throughout the house, and providing proper sanitation.

Happy 15th Birthday EWB-International.



Bernard Amadei

In 2002, my colleague Dr. Claes Helgesson (EWB-Sweden) and I (EWB-USA) decided to launch EWB-International as a network of like-minded organizations interested in addressing the needs of developing communities worldwide. By that time, several EWB/ISF organizations had been in existence since 1982 including those in France, Italy and Spain. New groups such as EWB-USA and EWB-Canada had just started and requests to start similar organizations were coming from colleagues around the world. Our vision was to coordinate our efforts, work on joint projects, share practices, and build an international network where the whole was larger than the sum of its parts through synergistic activities.

Over the past 15 years, the EWB-I network has had its share of ups and downs from an almost self-inflicted dissolution in Paris in 2005, to its rebirth a few years later with meetings in Germany and Sweden, and to how it stands today with representation from 65 countries. I had the chance to participate in the last EWB-I workshop graciously organized by EWB-UK in London during the summer. I can testify that the organization is in the good hands of forward thinking engineering leaders who mean well.

In my opinion, the EWB-I network has potential to develop a platform for science diplomacy, a term often used to describe how science can serve as a vehicle to create transboundary and cross-disciplinary partnerships through scientific collaboration. It can mean different things to different people, ranging from integrating sciences in diplomacy to integrating diplomacy in science. To that list, we should add engineering diplomacy, which is to engineering what science diplomacy is to science. My experience has shown that as human beings we have a lot in common and when the mind and the heart are at the right place, peace, understanding and collaboration can coexist. EWB-I has potential to become such a compassion-in-action organization as long as its members are willing to collaborate and quoting Gandhi, embody the change they want to see in the world.

AUSTRALIA

Engineers Without Borders Australia is partnering with Education, Industry and Community Development Leaders to nurture the skills and opportunities, that empower the Engineering sector to address the complex global challenges facing us all, both now and in the future. For more information:

<http://bit.ly/2xvALOG>

BRAZIL



Congresso Brazil

From 2nd to 4th November, the IV EWB Brazilian Conference was held in Lavras. At the event, about 150 volunteers shared experiences and information during lectures, workshops and meetings. The best projects were awarded and participants planted trees for a social action. For more information:

<https://www.facebook.com/IVcbESF/>