

Message to JFES

Dear colleagues and friends,

On behalf of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO), I am very pleased to address the Symposium celebrating the first World Engineering Day in Japan, with the theme “Future Engineering for the Sustainable Development”. Please also allow me to extend our heartiest congratulations to the 140th Anniversary of Japan Federation of Engineering Societies in 2019.

The World Engineering Day is not just a day for to celebrate the engineering achievements benefiting the humankind and its environment, but more importantly, it is a day for the whole world to increase the recognition of the critical importance of engineering for the sustainable development. Engineering is that converts scientific discovery to useful daily necessities, tools, facilities, buildings especially infrastructures for transport, water, electricity, information, etc., driving the economic and social development, delivering a better life to the people. Engineering has a key role in achieving sustainable development goals especially of clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, climate action, sustainable cities and communities, and other areas. None of these challenges could be resolved without engineering development and collaboration of engineers across the world.

The World Engineering Day is a day to mobilize engineers worldwide to engage in implementation of SDGs of 2030. Engineers are practitioners of engineering to solve problems in human life. Facing the pressing problems of climate change, poverty and rising inequalities within and among countries, gender inequality, unemployment, global health threats, natural resource depletion and environmental degradation, freshwater scarcity and loss of biodiversity, etc. the world needs to accelerate the transformation to the model of sustainability, for which stronger engineering capacity is needed and more qualified engineers are needed, especially girls and in developing countries.

Japan Federation of Engineering Societies, with some 100 societies and 140 years’ splendid history has contributed greatly to Japan’s economic and social development and has been contributing actively to engineering for sustainable development and WFEO. I still remember attending the World Engineering Conference and Convention, a key event of WFEO, organized by JFES in Kyoto in 2015. It was of great success with President Emperor Naruhito’s attendance and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s message, and nearly 2000 attendants from 68 countries. Now Japan Federation of Engineering Societies is organizing this special symposium in cooperation with the Science Council of Japan, the national member of WFEO from Japan, the Engineering Academy of Japan, and related societies, for World Engineering Day. Please allow me to express my sincere thanks to JFES, especially for its joining in the celebration of the first international day that celebrates engineering and raises public awareness of its importance to sustainable development, and encourages the next generation of engineers.

Ladies and gentlemen, in celebrating the World Engineering Day, let’s join hands to engage ourselves more proactively in achieving UN sustainable development goals to create a brighter future for ourselves and our children.

Sincerely wish the Symposium a complete success!

Prof. Gong Ke

President of World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO)