

Initiative in Ethics Education and Training Combating Global Corruption

Global ACET (Anti-Corruption Education & Training) Project

Purpose, Objective and Rationale

Purpose: The Global ACET Project is a collaborative effort by organizations from around the world to combat corruption in the engineering and construction industry including the International Federation of Consulting Engineers, World Federation of Engineering Organizations, World Economic Forum's Partnership Against Corruption Initiative, Transparency International and others..



The project will focus on the importance of *individual integrity* and will result in information conveying the negative aspects of corruption. The audience will include owners, engineers, consultants, contractors, suppliers and lenders involved in the production of engineering and construction projects. The program will also be designed to be useful for engineering students.

Objective: The ACET Project will develop and distribute a comprehensive education and training program devoted to the importance of *integrity* among all participants in the performance of engineering/construction projects. The materials that will be created for the program include a high quality DVD, PowerPoint presentations, a teaching guide, and train-the-trainer materials. The Global ACET Project activity is supported by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), in collaboration with others.

Rationale: The primary reason for producing products stressing *individual integrity* is that a number of resources are available which provide professional and ethical guidance to engineering and construction firms, societies, and other organizations. However, many, if not most, corrupt actions begin with poor decisions made by *two or more individuals*. Thus, the *objective* of the entire project is to develop products for promoting greater *ethical decision-making and moral courage* among engineers and those who work with engineers.

Funding and Recognition

A \$60,000 grant from United Engineering Foundation (UEF) has been received to initiate and partially support this project. This is a "leadership" gift to show other funding sources that there is a broad and sincere interest in this proposed project by a wide spectrum of engineering societies. The ASCE Foundation has agreed to support the effort to obtain the remaining funds. Potential funding sources are being identified from across the engineering community domestically and internationally including corporations, the World Bank, foundations, firms, societies, agencies and individuals. All contributors will be listed in either leading or trailing credits, with major contributors listed in the leading credits in the order of magnitude of their contribution.

The Products

An education and training program, including PowerPoint presentations and a movie in DVD format, will be developed and provided free to sponsors and engineering schools. These materials will portray a variety of difficult decisions encountered by engineers, consultants, contractors, suppliers and lenders who are involved in the production of engineering and construction projects. The program will include a drama similar to the *International Edition of Incident at Morales* to be subtitled in 15 languages and a comprehensive set of training materials. The education and

training program will focus on corrupt activities which occur in the procurement and performance of engineering and construction work such as pressures (and expectations) to provide excessive gifts and gratuities, improper political contributions or excessive entertainment, bribery, kickbacks, extortion, blackmail, and falsification of documents.

Emphasis will be placed on the disastrous effects of such corrupt activities on the individual engineer, technical and non-technical individuals, the profession, the integrity of the project, and most importantly, on humanity.

Examples of situations or activities envisioned for the training materials include those providing guidance to individual engineers concerning the elimination of fraud, bribery, and corruption in the engineering and construction industry by:

- Not being personally involved in activities that permit the abuse of power for private gain;
- Recognizing that funds intended for projects for the benefit of mankind worldwide too often go to dishonest individuals;
- Understanding that corruption occurs in both the public and private sectors, in both the procurement and execution of projects, and among both employers and employees;
- Realizing that corruption can occur in all countries, rich and poor, developed and less developed
- Refusing to condone or ignore corruption, bribery, extortion; or payments for favors;
- Urging professional engineering societies to adopt enforceable guidelines for professional and business practices; and
- Enforcing anti-corruption guidelines by reporting infractions by members or non-members of the engineering profession.

Management and Professional Team Members of the ACET Project

Project Director, Manager, and Assistant:

- **Jimmy Smith**, Ph.D., P.E., F.NSPE, F.ASCE, Project Director & Executive Producer. Executive Producer of *Incident at Morales*, Director, Murchison Center for Engineering Professionalism (MCEP) and the National Institute for Engineering Ethics, Texas Tech University
- **Michael Sanio**, M.ASCE, M.ASME, Project Manager for Finance and Administration, ASCE Director of International Alliances, Reston, Virginia
- **Patricia Harper**, Project Assistant, Deputy Director/Operations, MCEP and NIEE, Texas Tech University

Principal Investigators/Executive Producers:

- **Robert Crist**, Ph.D., P.E., M.ASCE, Associate Vice President, Black & Veatch, Fellow, ACI
- **Arthur Fox**, F.ASCE, Editor Emeritus, *Engineering News-Record*, Past President, ASCE, Managing Director, Construction Industry Round Table -Retired
- **William Henry**, P.E., F.ASCE, Past Chair, American Association of Engineering Societies; Past President, American Society of Civil Engineers
- **Steven Nichols**, Ph.D., J.D., P.E., F.ASME, Executive Producer of *Incident at Morales*, Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Director, Murchison Chair for Free Enterprise, University of Texas/Austin
- **Carl Skooglund**, Executive Producer of *Incident at Morales*, Retired Vice President and Ethics Director, Texas Instruments, Inc.
- **Lee Tashjian**, Vice President, Corporate Communications, Fluor Corp / World Economic Forum Partnering Against Corruption Initiative
- **Other Team Members:** Principal Investigators Representing Major Donors and/or Sponsors

Technical Advisors:

- **Nancy Boswell**, Managing Director, Transparency International
- **Dr. Jose Sanjuan Medem**, Past President, World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO)
- **Dr. Jorge Diaz Padilla**, President, International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC)
- **Emmanuel Dada**, American Institute of Chemical Engineers, AIChE
- **Jean Michel Rendu**, American Institute of Mining Engineers, AIME
- **Reginald I. Vachon**, P.E., M.ASME, Past President, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, ASME
- **Russell LeFevre**, Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers IEEE-USA, VP, Tech Policy Activities
- **Joe D. Manous Jr.**, Ph.D., P.E., M.ASCE, Chair, ASCE Committee on Professional Practice
- **Carlos E. Bertha**, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Philosophy, US Air Force Academy
- **Representative** from the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, a Company, Foundation, or other major sponsor

Professional Producer/Writer/Director:

- **Kenneth Mandel**, President, Great Projects Film Co., Inc., New York City. Emmy Award Winner Academy Award Nominee. Producer/Director of numerous documentaries and dramatic ethics films: *Incident at Morales*, *Gilbane Gold*, and *The Glass Ceiling*
- **Paul Martin**, Great Projects Film Co., Great Projects Film Co., Inc., New York City, Writer and Director, *Incident at Morales*

Contributions to the Advancement of the Engineering Profession

The portrayal of disastrous effects of corruption on humanity will contribute to the advancement of the engineering profession by:

- Encouraging greater commitment to ethical conduct and moral courage,
- Strengthening global principles for professional conduct, and
- Increasing the awareness and involvement of engineering educators and engineering professionals in opposing bribery, fraud and other corrupt activities in engineering and construction.
- World-wide distribution of the training materials will provide a springboard to stimulate discussion and communication among those involved in engineering work who may also be involved in situations containing the possibility or expectation of corrupt individual behavior.

The Global Impact and Participation

This collaborative initiative is engaging U.S. and worldwide affiliates to join major corporations, the consulting engineering business community, the construction industry, equipment and material suppliers, major lenders, and the legal profession in the battle against worldwide corruption.



The program is being developed to complement and support the existing efforts of others, including Pan American Academy of Engineers (API), International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC), World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO), Union PanAmericana De Asociaciones De Ingenieros (UPADI), World Economic Forum Partnering Against Corruption Initiative (WEF PACI), Transparency International, World Bank, Inter American Development Bank, and others.