

South Africa Launch Event - Pretoria, South Africa (17 March 2010)



The Partnership was formally launched at the SAICE *Indaba* – a conference on engineering and sustainability. Representatives from engineering institutions in thirteen African countries – Botswana, DRC, Ghana, Kenya, Namibia, Gabon, Malawi, Mauritius, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe and the UK partner organisations attended.

Professor Peter Guthrie OBE FREng, representing the Academy, and Petter Matthews from Engineers Against Poverty (EAP) began proceedings by introducing the Partnership and outlining its intended aims. They began by emphasizing what is gradually becoming the conventional wisdom in international development:

- a strong African engineering profession is essential to economic and social development of the continent
- a skilled workforce attracts technically oriented multi-national companies, which can invest effectively in country once there is a cadre of qualified local employees available
- this in turn contributes to the development of a vibrant local private sector

In giving such an overview and detailing how the Partnership can help, both speakers underlined that the Partnership is not UK-led – it has always been a fundamental tenet of the Partnership that its priorities will be determined by the African engineering community.

The launch provided an opportunity for AEF signatories to re-sign the AEF Protocol – as well as symbolizing the revitalization of the organisation, the occasion saw four new signatories - the Democratic Republic of Congo CEPA, the Ghana Institution of Engineers, the Malawi Institute of Engineers and the Engineering Council of Namibia.

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