

Comments on 15Mar2016 CAETS ExCom Agenda

(keyed to agenda item numbers; WCS comments except where otherwise noted)

item 3a Audit Committee

As CAETS President, Baldev Raj appointed the following persons as members of the CAETS Audit Committee for the two-year term, Jan. 2016 – Dec. 2017: Robert Evans, CAE (Canada); Al Romig, NAE; and Joan Zaorski, NAE.

Item 3c INAE requests \$8,500 to cover costs of printing and distributing the CAETS Energy Report. This is an expense normally covered by the CAETS Reserve Fund with ExCom approval. INAE plans to send 5 copies to each CAETS member academy and copies to other relevant organizations.

Item 4b Two discussion topics for the Sept. 15 Council meeting. How to involve member academies in preparing the discussion material?

item 10 Ann Dowling comment: The process started in the discussion on CAETS Going Forward in Delhi last year produced a number of interesting suggestions for future activity and created a sense of energy and momentum about CAETS' potential as a network. I have been contacted by Academies keen that we follow this up with a review. I agree that it is important to ensure that this energy is not dissipated, and to send a signal that CAETS is responsive to its member academies. One thing missing in the discussion of strategic objectives in Delhi was consideration of resource, and there is a need to achieve a better balance between CAETS' aspirations and its capacity. I would like the Executive Committee to initiate a second phase of CAETS Going Forward. My suggestion is that we set up a review group to take a holistic look at CAETS' strategy, operation and governance, with a view to have a report from the review group to discuss at the September Council meeting. My office has drafted terms of reference for the review (attached) and, if you are in agreement, I would be grateful if we could table them for the Executive Committee meeting.

item 11 Ann Dowling comment: While the discussions we had about membership of different international organisations can be explored in more detail as part of the CAETS review, I am very conscious that we didn't reach a final decision on the MoU with the WMO at our Delhi Council meeting. If we wait for the London Council meeting to have a discussion on this, two and a half years will have gone by without a response from CAETS to this MoU, which is plainly not acceptable. I would propose for this reason that Executive Committee consider the MoU in isolation with a view coming to an agreement on next steps.

item 12 Ann Dowling comment: I have received a formal request from the Royal Society of New Zealand to be closer aligned to CAETS, which I would also like to discuss at the Executive Committee meeting. While we have put forward a discussion on CAETS considering joint science and engineering academies for membership as one of the key topics of the review, I thought that a discussion of this individual case might be worthwhile in its own right, not least because, if I understand correctly, this is a case where a separate engineering and science academy did originally exist, but a decision was taken to join forces for enhanced impact.