



ROYAL SWEDISH ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING SCIENCES

Stockholm, August 26, 2016

CAETS annual meeting 2019 Stockholm – For discussion

“World Engineering Forum”?

Background

In 2019 IVA will, as the first engineering science academy in the world, celebrate its 100th anniversary. This will be celebrated throughout the year and IVA is also seeking support locally in Sweden to launch several long term initiatives in conjunction with the anniversary. For example: major projects/programs to stimulate the interest among the young in natural sciences and engineering, and programs to foster entrepreneurship.

CAETS annual meeting 2019

With respect to the CAETS annual meeting to be hosted in Sweden in 2019 IVA would like to host a major conference/symposium that highlights the contributions of engineering to address global challenges, and position engineering as a solution provider for current and future global challenges. We would also like to make use of IVA’s 100th anniversary to increase the visibility for such a conference, and utilize the opportunities the anniversary provides to put engineering in a historical context: *e.g.* “100 years of engineering science academies - What have they contributed to the development of society? How can engineering and engineering science academies contribute to provide solutions for current and future challenges?”

Global challenges are, and have been, a recurring theme for CAETS convocation meetings and in this sense our proposal is not new. We would however like to bring to the table the idea of a series of events (annual or bi-annual) under the same name in an effort to re-brand the CAETS annual meetings/convocation and attract broader interest from other stakeholders. A new meeting series could for instance be launched under the name of this year’s event – “Engineering for a better world” or perhaps “The World Engineering Forum” to put it in contrast to the “World Economic Forum”. Such a name would signal the significance of the meeting as a high-level event and provide the opportunity to highlight a focus on technology as the solution to today’s challenges. The meeting should ideally gather senior business leaders from global corporations, political leaders, leading scientists and engineers. We believe there is an opportunity to make such a meeting a reality if planning starts at least two years in advance and with the aid of all CAETS academies in securing high-level participation.

Discussion points

Is the proposal for the annual meeting 2019 supported by CAETS members?

Would a series of meetings under the same name be an interesting initiative for CAETS going forward?

- If so, how to ensure continuity? Should a permanent conference secretariat be created? How could that be funded? Effort to seek donations?

- How to select focus areas for each event? UN's sustainable development goals as a starting point/frame of reference?

Final remarks

Irrespective of the CAETS stance on a series of meetings IVA is hopeful that CAETS member academies are willing to assist in securing high-level participation from their respective countries for the 2019 conference. As a starting point for discussion we propose a 2 day conference in conjunction with the CAETS annual meeting (tentatively in June, we are currently investigating dates). We are open to suggestions for topics/focus areas.