

## ***Outcomes-Based Accreditation of Engineering Programmes by Dr Skip Fletcher***

The Washington Accord, an international alliance of nations, was formed to address the equivalence of evaluation and accreditation processes for engineering education programmes, and to ensure opportunities for global mobility of engineering graduates. ABET, the accrediting organization for assessment of engineering programs in the United States and a signatory to the Washington Accord, will be reviewed along with ABET Criteria 2000, the outcomes-based accreditation criteria used for evaluation of engineering programmes. These criteria will be discussed, noting the problems and successes of implementing and using outcomes-based assessment. Such accreditation processes lead to outcomes-based education which strengthens the overall educational learning environment. The success of outcomes-based education depends in large part on the endorsement and support of the University administration, the understanding and involvement of individual faculty members, the appropriate training of programme evaluators or assessors, as well as a continual focus on ensuring educational improvement in all courses and all programmes. The benefit of outcomes-based accreditation leads to improved education for all engineering students world wide, and increased mobility of these graduates across international boundaries.