

## Accreditation: A Strategy for Quality Assurance and Innovation in Engineering Education

Elizabeth Taylor  
Deputy Chair, Washington Accord, International Engineering Alliance

### Abstract

Facilitating mobility for international engineering practice has resulted in the development of international-level accords focused on the accreditation of engineering programs. These accords sit within the International Engineering Alliance and cover all members of the engineering team. Because the basis of the accords is mutual recognition of substantial equivalence, engagement with the accreditation systems of each accord signatory, and their constituent institutional engineering programs, is imperative. All signatories share a commitment to finding common ground for stakeholders to share engineering standards and practice through dialogue and exchange of views and to work together collaboratively. This presentation will detail the quality assurance system of the accords and analyze the way in which the engagement provides significant opportunities to identify best practices and so continually improve international engineering accreditation standards, education, and practice.



Elizabeth spent 10 years in design and construction management. She then joined UTS as the Women in Engineering coordinator before moving into academe. During that time, she completed a law degree. In 2009, she resigned as pro vice-chancellor and executive dean, Faculty of Sciences, Engineering and Health, CQ University. Presently, she consults with various organizations on education and asset management. She has always engaged in diverse pro-bono work. Within Engineers Australia, this has included Accreditation Board chair, Sydney Division president, chair of the National Women in Engineering Committee and of Engineers Media, and membership on two Code of Ethics reviews. She chaired the Board of Professional Engineers of Queensland for 8 years. Currently, she is chair of the Cambodian Children's Trust Australia, RedR Australia, and RedR International. She is deputy chair, Washington Accord, International Engineering Alliance.

In 2004, she was appointed an officer of the Order of Australia. In 2018, she was UNSW Engineering Alumni of the Year, and her work was recognized with an Honorary Doctorate in Engineering. Elizabeth is an Honorary Fellow of Engineers Australia and Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and in 2015 was elected to Fellow, Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering.