

ADVANCING THE ROLE OF TECHNICIANS WITHIN CDIO PROGRAMMES

TOPIC/PROBLEM/QUESTION

Technicians play a vital role in the design and delivery of activities closely aligned to the CDIO syllabus, and as such, attention should be given to developing the competencies of this group. Work has been ongoing in this area for some years with a number of papers, roundtables and workshops being delivered at CDIO conferences and regional meetings. Efforts have so far focused on improving collaboration and communication between CDIO technicians from different partner institutes along with efforts to identify and improve competencies specific to technicians working within the CDIO framework. This has included the development of:

- A dedicated ‘technician track’ of parallel sessions at UK meetings as well as some recent UK and European meetings.
- A CDIO technician network to facilitate the sharing of best practice
- A competency framework that identifies the skills and knowledge that technicians need to facilitate activities in the CDIO classroom.

At the last CDIO International Conference in Tunisia and at the subsequent International Working Meeting in Singapore, the working group explored possible themes relating to the question of “How Technicians can interact with the wider CDIO initiative in a more holistic manner”. Participants debated approaches and methodologies at these two platforms. Subsequently, a series of possible interaction points have been conceived and there is now a need to identify high leverage holistic strategies to experiment with and to test these ideas with the wider CDIO Community who may be interested in getting their technicians to interact more widely with CDIO.

TARGET AUDIENCE

This working group seeks to find both technicians and academic staff that are interested in helping to experiment with the strategies and to subsequently assist in creating a framework unique to the needs of technicians in CDIO.

LEADERS

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PRE-CONFERENCE WORK

1. Recap of all work done so far (offline) – Each member will be sent the consolidated proposed action plan that was created as a result of the conference and international working meeting. Member should:
 - a. Evaluate the suggested strategies and rank them according to high-leverage strategies from their own context
 - b. Engage with technicians from their own institutions to understand their perceived ideas of the strategies
 - c. Suggest 1-2 activities that can be experimented with
 - d. Suggest possible evaluation approaches
2. Online Meeting – An opportunity for everyone to meet to share initial ideas and thoughts and to discuss the schedule of work for the conference.

THINGS TO DO OR CAN BE DONE DURING THE PHYSICAL CONFERENCE

1. Analysis of findings of offline work to include:
 - a. Identification of high-leverage strategies that will be used for experimentation with technicians
 - b. Confirm development activities
 - c. Develop a firm timeline for the role of technicians in CDIO
2. Develop a Holistic Action Plan
 - a. Translate agreements and findings into a 3-year SMART plan along the lines of the above activities
 - b. Assign responsibility for individual elements of work agreed as part of the SMART plan

HOW WILL THE FINALIZATION OF THE STATE OF THE ART PAPER BE ORGANIZED?

The process for finalizing the related state-of-the-art paper will be agreed upon the meeting.

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

Include any other relevant information here.