

## **Proposal To Establish EWB-Global**

### **History of EWB-International**

Engineers Without Borders - International (EWB-I) is an existing network of 47 in-country EWB/ISF member organizations established to work together and to share knowledge in their efforts to improve quality of life for developing communities. Individually or in partnership, EWB organizations deliver a wide variety of infrastructure projects to improve the quality of life in a sustainable, appropriate, and equitable manner. Since forming in 2002, EWB-I member organizations have supported people moving out of poverty by providing clean water and sanitation, building roads and bridges, delivering electricity and lighting, and otherwise contributing to sustainable development initiatives.

### **Need**

The individual EWB-I member organizations are committed to the delivery of high quality programs under the unique banner of their respective in-country organization. In its current role, the EWB-I network provides a value to its individual member organizations. This value is seen in two major areas:

- Facilitation of the collaboration between EWB/ISF member organizations on community projects. This type of collaboration amongst the member organizations occurs across political, social, and economic boundaries. Individual member organizations have begun to form partnerships and work collaboratively on programs which better leverage their individual resources and relationships.
- Sharing of knowledge and information. As EWB/ISF member organizations work in communities around the world, it is important to capture and share the work that is being done, the lessons learned, and the effectiveness of the work. The EWB-I network brings together its member organizations to provide for these information exchanges and educational opportunities.

It is apparent that there is a significant need for additional community programs, more collaboration amongst EWB-I members, and more resources to support the wide variety of infrastructure projects which improve the quality of life in a sustainable, appropriate, and equitable manner. It is clear that there is a need for an expanded EWB-I network which can not only continue the work that has been done to date but also proactively:

- Work with EWB-I member organizations to provide additional resources, information, and tools such that each member organization has the tools to succeed. This will support the sustainable growth of each member organization.
- Work with EWB-I member organizations to develop country-specific business plans with their own goals and deliverables. This business plan will serve as an internal roadmap for the growth of the member organization, as well as provide a strategic plan by which results can be measured.
- Coordinate between member organizations, corporations, NGO's to establish partnerships, community programs, and educational resources. This is necessary especially when multiple member organizations many times work in another member organization country.

- Educate individual member organizations as to “best practices” in areas of the globe. One of the potential educational opportunities is the creation of Centers for Sustainability located in different areas which can provide workshops or courses on indigenous sustainability or appropriate technologies within the region.
- Develop an infrastructure where EWB-I member organizations around the world are held accountable for wearing the EWB-I logo. Transparency will be required and is earned through the delivering of appropriate and sustainable community programs where results can be measured.
- Collaborative Fundraising and Stewardship. Working with the global donor community to clarify the roles of the member organizations and to establish common stewardship practices.
- Serve as an umbrella for regional projects in sensitive areas (such as the Middle East for example).

### **Proposal**

To enhance synergies on a global basis among EWB organizations for the ultimate benefit of developing communities, EWB-I must strengthen its global bonds and act as a role model in creating change which involves intensive resource conservation, equitable resource sharing and reduced consumption. Through this change, a more robust platform will emerge which will identify, facilitate and fund the sustainable and appropriate community development work and educational resources and tools for the EWB-I member organizations and its partners.

In support of this effort, the existing EWB-I Steering Committee sent a Memorandum to the Executive Director of EWB-USA proposing that EWB-USA act as the Secretariat and operating arm of a new EWB global (EWB-Global) organization for a period of two to four years as the organization emerges and stabilizes. The Memorandum is attached.

### **Moving Forward**

EWB-Global will require the creation of formal processes and organizational structure during its startup year of operation. The initial action will be for the EWB-I Steering Committee to formalize the transition of the organization. To accomplish this action, it is proposed that the following actions be taken:

- Distribute a formal document in June, 2010, to all existing EWB-I members as well as EWB-groups that do not participate in EWB-I. The purpose of the document is to present the proposed reorganization of EWB-I and to solicit feedback from interested parties. Comments will be accepted until August 15th, 2010.
- The EWB-I Steering Committee will consider comments and determine if there is consensus to move forward. This is anticipated by September 15, 2010.
- The EWB-I Steering Committee will vote to either move forward with the transition or return to business as usual. If the EWB-I Steering Committee votes to move forward, the EWB-I Steering Committee, with assistance from the EWB-USA Executive Director, will begin to solicit funding to create EWB-Global as well as to support community programs and some initial educational

initiatives. In addition, an agreement will be completed between the Secretariat and the existing EWB-I Steering Committee to determine the roles and responsibilities of each organization as it moves forward. It is then anticipated that EWB –Global will start its operation on January 1, 2011.

### **In Summary**

Engineers Without Borders – Global has the potential to become recognized and respected as one of the leading international organizations whose membership can deliver appropriate and sustainable solutions to developing communities worldwide and that provides transformative educational opportunities for its members leading to the solutions of critical problems affecting the health of our planet and its occupants.

The creation of EWB-Global partnerships have the ability to transcend political, cultural, generational, and geographic boundaries allowing people to work together to solve critical problems affecting the health of our communities and our environment.