Y 4.F 76/2:S. HRG. 108-219

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establishment of secure and stable conditions is the reconstruction and building efforts to improve the country's infrastructure, which are currently underway. Since the President declared an end to major combat operations on May 1, 2003, building and reconstruction efforts have focused on critical areas of infrastructure that will each contribute to substantial improvements in the lives of the Iraqi people. They are water, sanitation, health, education, electricity, ports, airports, and local governance.

The US engineering community believes that one of the most important actions to occur during the building and reconstruction process must be the engagement of the Iraqi people in all aspects of the process, especially the Iraqi engineering community. It is an accepted fact that the Coalition forces will be a strong presence in Iraq for years to come, but at the same time it is also understood that the Iraqi people will be responsible for their own community once the Coalition forces have decreased and withdrawn.

In conjunction with the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO), the US Army Corps of Engineers and others, the US engineering community has begun to work directly with the Iraqi engineering community during the building and reconstruction process. Through regular video conference calls, e-mail exchanges, meetings and the like, the US engineering community has come together to help its colleagues in Iraq. Some examples of that assistance include providing technical journals and literature in an effort to update existing engineering skills and technology; providing volunteer US engineers willing to travel to Iraq to help their colleagues; and providing contacts within the technical community for general assistance in all manner of issues. At this critical time, we appreciate the efforts made by the US Army Corps of Engineers and other federal agencies to help facilitate our outreach to the Iraqi engineering community.

Our outreach to the Iraqi engineering community is an example of how the US engineering community is working to create a sustainable world that provides a safe, secure, healthy life for all peoples. The US engineering community is increasing its focus on sharing and disseminating information, knowledge and technology that provides access to minerals, materials, energy, water, food and public health while addressing basic human needs. Engineers must deliver solutions that are technically viable, commercially feasible, and environmentally and socially sustainable.

The reconstruction of Iraq, and indeed the survival of our planet and its people requires the collaboration of all professions in both developed and developing countries to sustain future generations. The goal of improving the social and economic well being of all peoples in the developed and lesser-developed countries is a prerequisite for creating a stable, sustainable world. Although achieving this goal will require a broad coalition of well-crafted policies, it will only be realized through the application of engineering principles and a commitment to public/private partnerships involving professionals from all fields including the social sciences, engineering and medicine. It will also require collaboration for development, acceptance and dissemination of innovative solutions and better use of existing technologies.

Today's world is increasingly complex, and the need for US assistance in building and reconstruction more common. The US engineering community stands at the ready to provide any manner of assistance to help in the creation of a sustainable world.

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