

## ***Engineering a better world – Smart Society***

### **A statement by the International Council of Academies of Engineering and Technological Sciences (CAETS)**

*The 2020 International Council of Academies of Engineering and Technological Sciences (CAETS) Annual Conference was held in Seoul on October 12-15, 2020. The main theme of CAETS 2020 conference was "Engineering a Better World - Smart Society," and the conference aimed to cover both technical & sociopolitical aspects to make our society more sustainable in a smarter way (or via more efficient routes). We must all take advantage of new technology and at the same time prevent the technology-enabled crises and prohibit negative side effects from materializing. The conference was organized as a platform for discussing what current issues and challenges we will face in the process of developing sustainable societies.*

*The conference brought together engineers, scientists, entrepreneurs and policymakers from all over the world, including 30 CAETS academies of engineering, through a hybrid conference model using both on-line and off-line connections.*

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**Smart society, in which data-driven decisions, by both leaders and citizens, continually improve economic prosperity, social well-being, sustainability, and governance,** is already emerging all around us. We must be prepared and informed to face the infinite opportunities as well as the challenges stemming from the changing world. The world is experiencing rapid technological advances in various fields, such as artificial intelligence, IoT, block chain, and more. Such advances are blurring industry boundaries and are expected to restructure the current social and economic systems built in through a new industrial revolution.

The 2020 CAETS Annual Conference was dedicated to discussing the role and responsibilities of engineering in creating the smart society. The conference sought to examine solutions for the **global Grand Challenges for Engineering** and exchanged insight on how engineering influences the future of humanity. Cooperation, sharing vision, and consensus among the scientific community, policy makers, and the general public, are crucial to building smart societies. **Hence, diversifying engineering education is essential to maximizing the potential of building the smart societies.**

**CAETS 2020 concluded that engineers world-wide and the general public can be the heroes who meet and overcome the serious challenges lying ahead. Sustainable development of smart societies cannot be just technology-driven, but also human-driven, and must be based upon values of inclusion, diversity, and openness.**

*This 2020 CAETS Statement was endorsed by the following CAETS Member Academies*

<b>Argentina's Academia Nacional de Ingeniería</b>	<b>Academy of Engineering of Mexico</b>
<b>Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering</b>	<b>Netherland's Academy of Technology and Innovation</b>
<b>Royal Belgian Academy Council of Applied Sciences</b>	<b>New Zealand's Royal Society Te Aparangi</b>
<b>Canadian Academy of Engineering</b>	<b>Nigerian Academy of Engineering</b>
<b>Chinese Academy of Engineering</b>	<b>Norwegian Academy of Technological Sciences</b>
<b>Croatian Academy of Engineering</b>	<b>Pakistan Academy of Engineering</b>
<b>Engineering Academy of the Czech Republic</b>	<b>Academy of Engineering Sciences of Serbia</b>
<b>Danish Academy of Technical Sciences</b>	<b>Slovenian Academy of Engineering</b>
<b>Council of Finnish Academies</b>	<b>South African Academy of Engineering</b>
<b>National Academy of Technologies of France</b>	<b>Spain's Real Academia de Ingeniería</b>
<b>Germany's National Academy of Science and Engineering</b>	<b>Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Science</b>
<b>Hungarian Academy of Engineering</b>	<b>Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences</b>
<b>Indian National Academy of Engineering</b>	<b>United Kingdom's Royal Academy of Engineering</b>
<b>Engineering Academy of Japan</b>	<b>United States' National Academy of Engineering</b>
<b>National Academy of Engineering of Korea</b>	<b>National Academy of Engineering of Uruguay</b>