

## A Message From Our President: Cathy Leslie

Dear friends,

Welcome to our second newsletter of 2019. I would like to thank each of the EWB Member Associations for all of the hard work so far this year. Some of the excellent work being done includes:

- In many EWB member associations, exciting events and projects are being done to solve issues such as efficient and effective waste disposal, renewable energy innovations, and addressing concerns in diversity and inclusion.
- A renewed start-up organization is being formed in Ghana at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology. They are excited and eager to join the EWB network.
- We are also working with individuals from the Philippines to launch EWB Philippine.
- EWBs in Australia, UK, South Africa and the US have launched engineering challenges designed to improve the skills of global engineers.



I am looking forward to what the rest of the year will bring as we continue on our path to convene, collaborate, and catalyze conversations around our mission. To do that, we will be hosting another Virtual Forum and would like to feature the good work that is being done around the world. If you wish to present something from your Member Association please email [Bronwynne.Oosthuizen@ewb-international.org](mailto:Bronwynne.Oosthuizen@ewb-international.org) to find out more about participating.

I would like to thank all of you for being a part of Engineers Without Borders International and for all the work that is happening in communities and universities around the world because of you. We are changing the world!

In partnership,  
Cathy Leslie  
EWB-I President

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## In Focus

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[The Global Virtual Forum](#) is now a year round event. EWB-I wants to be able to provide our Member Associations with useful resources and access to professionals. Instead of an

The 2018 Annual Report is going live in October.

annual event across multiple time zones we now have smaller virtual forums every month where you can engage with the speakers and be a part of a global conversation.

Please check out the [EWB-International Reports](#) on our website and learn about the various activities and improvements we have made to the organisation.



Auto desk has partnered with EWB-I to provide our Member Associations with AutoDesk licenses. These licenses will be available to EWB Member Associations by the end of October. A mailer will be sent out so that you can apply for yours.

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## Spotlight

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### **EWB-DK volunteers: How we share our technical skills and knowledge with local communities**

As a technical humanitarian NGO, Engineers Without Borders Denmark (EWB-DK) collaborate with local and international NGOs to improve the living conditions for vulnerable people in poor countries. With the technical skills and backgrounds of the volunteers, EWB-DK build schools and health clinics, provide clean water and better sanitation, improve roads and bridges as well as establish solar power plants and waste treatment plants.

“A crucial element in our work is to pass on our volunteer’s know-how and technical skills to our local partners and through the projects ensure local anchorage and lasting solutions,” says Dorte Lindegaard Madsen, Secretary General at EWB-DK.



### **Volunteers: The foundation of our work**

All projects are developed and managed by volunteer project groups – from the initial idea generation or contact to potential partners, through fact-finding and signing of a local partnership agreement, to implementation and final handover to local community. Marianne Skov is one of the volunteers, who works as a project manager in one of EWB-DKs project groups:

“Contributing to raising awareness about the effects of climate changes, increasing the knowledge level and enhancing the coping capacity of vulnerable communities motivate me and have been a driven factor, both professionally and as an EWB-DK volunteer,” says Marianne Skov, Flood Risk Specialist at Rambøll A/S. In March 2018, she travelled to Sierra Leone on a fact-finding mission after flooding and mudslides ravaged the Freetown area in August 2017. More than 1000 people lost their lives and water systems was damaged and disrupted. Now, EWB-DK and Engineers without Borders Sierra Leone (EWB-SL) has installed water towers and taps and are now moving on to phase two in order to make them more secure for next time a similar disaster will occur.

### **Bringing technical knowledge to the field**

In 2018, EWB-DK supported its local partners with 631 days of technical missions providing support, training and mentoring. For four months, Nichlas Halberg Madsen travelled to Sierra Leone as part of EWB-DKs Internship-program. Here Nichlas worked together with EWB-SL on a project that focuses on the aspect of proper handling of medical waste from hospitals and rural clinics – an increased focus since the outbreak of Ebola in 2014. For Nichlas, the Internship was both educational and challenging at the same time:

“During my internship I gained an understanding of how different people think and act differently depending on their culture. Even the smallest projects can be complex to implement when reality hits. I also learned project management and flexibility in projects,” says Nichlas Halberg Madsen, studying M.Sc. Techno-Anthropology at Aalborg University, Copenhagen.

### **EU-project creates future opportunities for volunteers**

Early 2018, EWB-DK launched the multi-partner capacity development project EU Aid Volunteers Initiative, together with Scandinavian EWBs, Emergency Architecture & Human Rights and partners in Sierra Leone, Nepal and Tanzania. The purpose is to enhance quality and capacity of volunteer management and hence increase the amount of future deployment of volunteers.

“Through the support of the EU Aid Volunteers Initiative our platform and internal structure to manage and send volunteers abroad has been significantly strengthened. We find it very pro-active by the EU to further this institutional capacity building of the partners both in the EU countries and in the third countries we work in,” says Dorte Lindegaard Madsen, Secretary General at EWB-DK.

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## **News From Our Network**

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### **EWB-UK**

[Launching The Efficiency For Access Design Challenge](#)



### **ISF-Brasil**

[16th Engineering In Week UFES](#)



### **EWB-USA**

[Engineers Without Borders-USA Announces Chill Challenge: Affordable Off-Grid Refrigeration for Developing Countries](#)

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## Special Feature

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### Global EWB Disaster Response Team

The vast membership of the various Engineers Without Borders (EWB) organizations around the world are well posed to provide essential disaster response services as a unified force. The need for a Global Engineering Disaster Response team became apparent after the Cyclone Idai disaster at the request of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to provide assistance to the Government of Mozambique. It is the first time that a global EWB team has been assembled for such an effort with members from Brazil, Denmark, Nicaragua, the United States of America, and two interns from Mozambique. The team arrived in May and provided on the ground support through mid September.

On March 21st, Cyclone Idai made landfall with 220 km/hr winds. Before the Cyclone, Mozambique was the ninth poorest country on the planet (180 of 189) based upon the Human Development Index. Cyclone Idai did not help, damaging or destroying over 4200 school classrooms, 94 clinics and 240,000 homes. The government's engineers, with assistance from the UNDP/EWB team, assessed key government facilities including police stations, schools, clinics and neighborhoods. The assessments determined which buildings could be saved and the measures needed to put them quickly back in use. Final resilient repairs were estimated to inform the long-term rebuilding strategy.



EWB-USA is committed to developing a Global Disaster Response Roster of engineers from around the world that are available to participate in both long-term and short-term assignments. Through support of the United Nation Development Programme, all travel and living expenses will be covered for any member placed on an assignment.

Currently, we are on a scoping mission in the Bahamas assessing the damage from Hurricane Dorain.





Two EWB-USA members flew to Abaco and Grand Bahamas Island to train engineers from the Bahamas Ministry of Public Works, the sites of the most severe damage from Hurricane Dorian. At the site, the team learned how to use a new building damage assessment tool developed by UNDP. Over 1000 homes will be assessed and the intent is that the Ministry of Public Works teams will complete the assessments over the next month.

strategy. Key areas include housing, government buildings, and environmental cleanup including debris management.

If you or your organization are interested in taking part in future disaster responses through EWB, please sign up for our future [Global Virtual Form](#) session on December 16th 2019 here.



You can confirm your attendance by emailing [admin@ewb-international.org](mailto:admin@ewb-international.org)

