



## DR. EMILIO M.COLON: NEW PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

July, 2009, 07:01 (CET)

Dr. Emilio Colón assumed the Presidency of the World Council of Civil Engineers (WCCE) at its 4th General Assembly held in Istanbul, Turkey during the last week of June. Colón, a worldwide recognized engineering professional from Puerto Rico will serve a two year term for the period 2009-2011. Emilio Colón is succeeding José Medem Sanjuan, former WFEO president and founding President of the WCCE.

Since WCCE foundation, Colón has chaired the Committee on Construction and in 2007 was elected Incoming President during our Second General Assembly held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. His areas of expertise are water resources, water and wastewater management, environment, disaster response and crisis management.

Emilio Colón holds Doctor and Master Degrees in Environmental Engineering from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy New York. Also a Bachelor in Civil Engineer and a Juris Doctor Degree from the University of PR. Emilio Colón was born in Texas, USA, and lives in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He is a Professional Engineer and Licensed Professional Planner in Puerto Rico. He is married and has three married sons.

Colón retired in 2005 from the United States Corps of Engineers where he held many positions, including International and National Projects Manager requiring extensive travel; also water resources planning; construction management and disaster response, thus dealing with most of the areas of the federal agency. As cabinet member of the Government of Puerto Rico while directing the PR Aqueduct and Sewer Authority, one of the most complex water works in the U.S., he led the agency during very challenging times. His management approach in the agency through the most extensive drought period in the island and his vision to initiate long-term solutions to water supply problems won for him the admiration of the public including political foes. Colón is widely recognized by professionals from a variety of fields, by his peers and the community as a whole as an outstanding public servant. Through his career Colón has also distinguished himself both as an inspirational leader and as committed team player.

Colón serves as President of the Board of Directors of Caribe Federal Credit Union, the largest federal credit union with main offices on the island, combining his leadership and engineering capabilities with financial competence. Colón's experience in academia includes teaching at the Engineering Management Graduate Program, Polytechnic University of PR. His courses are an intense and valuable experience as he blends the academic approach with a multitude of diverse practical experiences. Colon is an active member and volunteer in many international and national professional organizations.

Professor José Medem Sanjuan, who remains as Immediate Past President of the WCCE explained: "Over the last years, civil engineering has faced many challenges but we are used to it and we move ahead for our goal, which is to serve our society. In the WCCE, our organization has grown from 9 founding members to 18 National Members in the last three years, with individual professional memberships of over a hundred. Our Strategic Plan, designed by Emilio, has helped us accomplish most of our objectives. Now we have established higher goals and we are ready to tackle them. Emilio has a great task in caring, nurturing and upbringing our young organization to turn it into a healthy youngster in a time of crisis and great challenges. I am confident he will succeed at it."

In the same General Assembly, Prof. Edelmiro Rúa Alvarez, from Spain was appointed President Elect, being responsible for the implementation of the new Strategic Plan. Professor Rúa earned a Master in Civil Engineering in 1967 and a Doctor in Civil Engineering in 1977 from the Technical University of Madrid, Spain.

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He is President of Colegio de Ingenieros de Caminos, Canales y Puertos, the sectorial professional civil engineering organization from Spain.

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Notes to editors:

Dr. Emilio Colon and Professor Edelmiro Rua bios and photos are available at:

<http://www.wcce.net/doc/EmilioColon-CV-Short-23July09.pdf>

[http://www.wcce.net/doc/Resume\\_Rua\\_en.pdf](http://www.wcce.net/doc/Resume_Rua_en.pdf)

The World Council of Civil Engineers is a Non-Government Organization (NGO). Our goals are to promote dialogue, mutual understanding and technology exchange between civil engineers networks operating in different local contexts. It seeks to identify problems and difficulties; to facilitate the pursuit of shared solutions; to identify best practices, opportunities and initiative; to promote high technical standards of civil engineering world wide; and to promote the civil engineering profession and high ethical standards of conduct. Founded in 2006 Mexico, WCCE is member of the World Federation of Engineering Organisations and its membership now comprises representatives from more than 50 countries from all continents.

[www.wcce.net](http://www.wcce.net)

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