
Global IT Profession Comes Nearer

A unique gathering of leading world experts earlier this month in Cape Town, South Africa concluded that global recognition for IT professionals would provide major advantages to individual practitioners and for IT systems users and suppliers.

The meeting was called by the International Federation for Information Processing, IFIP, and involved senior representatives from the world's leading professional computer societies from Australia (ACS), Canada (CIPS), South Africa (CSSA) and UK (BCS). The Task Force is led by Charles Hughes, Immediate Past President of the BCS. The meeting addressed key issues facing the IT industry today including lack of clarity of international professional skills and qualifications and worldwide mobility of IT professionals and commenced planning for a global IT profession.

Each of the societies has a national scheme to provide public recognition to qualified members. However, these schemes lack visibility outside their own countries.

Charles Hughes said, "Global industries need global professions to promote high professional standards worldwide and to give public recognition to qualified practitioners".

"In the modern world, the IT industry is a global business with many international organisations requiring increasing mobility among individual members of the IT workforce. Hence, employers face growing uncertainty when recruiting staff from outside their own countries."

Basie von Solms, IFIP President-Elect, commented "To achieve recognition, IT professionals will require an accredited combination of education and experience, as well as undertaking Continuing Professional Development and committing themselves to a Code of Ethics."

The meeting agreed to report its findings to the IFIP Council at the end of February and seek agreement to develop more detailed proposals to establish the scheme as well as agreeing to a governance structure.

After acceptance of the report, leading IT organisations will be invited to participate in the development and launch of the programme.

Note to Editors

IFIP (International Federation for Information Processing) has around 50 member societies with an aggregate membership of over 500,000 individuals.

Details on www.ifip.org Contact details at foot of this page.

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