INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

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In 1992-1993 circa 71,000 students studied abroad; only 1.6 were in engineering. Fortunately, there are an increasing number of opportunities for engineering students to study abroad. This session focused on two such programs. The Global Engineering Educational Exchange Program (GE3), and The Engineering Alliance for Global Education (EAGLE) program in Japan. Both GE3 and EAGLE are the result of perceived need for the global engineer and the importance of providing cultural and technical international exposure for undergraduate engineering students.

In brief: GE3 is an exchange program for engineers which provides opportunity for study and work abroad. The program ensures credit transfer, and provides opportunities for study in English and in the native language of the country. Students work with the Institute of International Education (IIE) and pay their home institution's tuition. GE3 has generated enormous interest and has tremendous plans for future expansion.

In contrast to the global emphasis of GE3, EAGLE focuses on sending Americans to Japan and providing them with technical Japanese language, as well as courses on Japanese business and development of technology. The EAGLE consortium of school provides for Japanese language study on campus, a 10-week intensive summer program in Japanese language and culture, and an industrial internship in Japan one to three years after graduation. Since its establishment in 1991, EAGLE has developed a network of contacts, recognition in Japan, placed over 200 students in Japan for short courses and circa 130 graduates in long-term industrial internships and residential programs.