

Enterprise Architecture organization gains momentum

A trailblazing organization of enterprise architecture professional associations is now official. The Federation of Enterprise Architecture Professional Organizations (FEAPO) operating charter was ratified by 15 founding voting members at a meeting on June 9 2011 at the Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) Executive Briefing Center in Falls Church, Va.

FEAPO, which was launched in January 2011, is an association of professional organizations whose members have an active interest in the practice and professionalism of Enterprise Architecture. The purpose of FEAPO is to provide a forum to discuss cross organizational activities to standardize, professionalize, and otherwise advance the discipline of Enterprise Architecture.

FEAPO's founder, Dr. Brian Cameron, stated, "I am thankful to the contributions of the founding delegates who actively participated since the FEAPO launch in January 2011 – we wouldn't have gotten this far without their hard work and enthusiasm."

The purpose of the operating charter is to record the guiding principles and procedures for operation of FEAPO. The guiding principles are: the primacy of principles, collaboration, shared motivation, transparent governance, and competitive neutrality and open standards.

The current list of founding voting members that signed the charter includes:

- Data Management International (DAMA International)
- DAMA International Education & Research Foundation
- The Association for Enterprise Information
- Association of Enterprise Architects
- The Business Architecture Society (BAS)
- The Canadian Information Processing Society (CIPS)
- CAEAP (The Center for Advancement for the Enterprise Architecture Profession)
- IAC EA Shared Interest Group
- GITCA (The Global IT Community Association)
- The National Association of State CIO's (NASCIO)
- The Network Professional Association (NPA)
- The Open Group
- IEEE Computer Society
- The British Computer Society
- Federal CIO Council

In addition, FEAPO was recently recognized by the U.S. Department of Defense and has the support of the federal government. Walt Okon, senior architect engineer for the Architecture & Infrastructure Directorate Office of the Secretary of Defense, recently told Cameron in an e-mail that the Department of Defense is “committed to keeping our director and the Department of Defense CIO informed of involvement and joint efforts.

“The Department of Defense is very interested and supportive of your efforts in the development of FEAPO,” Okon wrote. “We look forward to active participation and involvement.”

FEAPO is the brainchild of Cameron, who actively engages with an EA advisory group of more than 70 international corporations, industry associations and government agencies.

The idea for FEAPO originated in the spring of 2010 as Cameron was working with professional organizations involved in the Center for Enterprise Architecture. He invited representatives of the six largest professional groups to Penn State in June 2010 to discuss the FEAPO concept as a mechanism for the Enterprise Architecture community to undertake cross-organizational activities. The FEAPO concept would provide a mechanism to facilitate collaboration and coordination of activities among professional organizations related to Enterprise Architecture. FEAPO would work toward a better-integrated community and “one face” for the advancement of the practice and profession of Enterprise Architecture.

A second meeting was conducted in September of 2010. At this meeting it was decided to invite all known professional organizations that fall under the umbrella of Enterprise Architecture to participate.

The first organizational meeting of FEAPO with this expanded group was held on January 27 and 28, 2011 at CSC’s Executive Briefing Center.

The operating charter states that FEAPO shall be governed by a set of bylaws approved by the current voting FEAPO Member Organizations (FMOs).

Operational governance of FEAPO is vested in a board of directors selected from FMO representatives with FEAPO officers serving ex officio and non-voting as defined in the FEAPO bylaws.

Mark Lane, president of the Center for the Advancement of the Enterprise Architecture Profession (CAEAP), said, “We are very pleased to see FEAPO come together and facilitate collaboration with all its member organizations. Addressing the challenges that face enterprise architects will strengthen the profession and its practice and furthermore, providing clarity to the role enterprise architecture plays will change the way in which people think about its practitioners.”

Leonard Fehskens, VP Skills and Capabilities for The Open Group, added, “The Open Group, a vendor- and technology-neutral standards and certification consortium, is pleased to have been able to play a role in the formation of FEAPO. This new forum for collaboration with key contributors to the enterprise architecture ecosystem will allow The Open Group to concentrate on what it does best, confident that doing so will continue to advance the professionalization of the discipline.”

CEAP and The Open Group are founding members of FEAPO.

For more information, visit <http://www.feapo.org/>.