Presented by John Tharakan, PhD
Faculty Adviser, Engineers Without Borders-USA, Howard University Chapter
Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering
Senior Fulbright Scholar

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Abstract

International Service Learning Projects through Engineers Without Borders

John Tharakan, PhD

Professor, College of Engineering, Architecture and Computer Sciences
Faculty Adviser, Engineers Without Borders-USA, Howard University Student Chapter

Engineers Without Borders is a national and international non-governmental service organization dedicated to partnering with developing countries worldwide in order to help communities improved the quality of their lives through development and implementation of community-centered and driven projects. Projects endeavor to utilize appropriate technologies that focus on empowering people at the grass roots to take control over their lives and livelihoods. Engineers Without Borders-Howard University is one of numerous student chapter’s of EWB-USA and the only one currently in an Historically Black College or University. EWB-HU has developed and implemented projects in Panama, Brazil and Kenya. The mechanisms by which projects are selected, initiated, developed and implemented will be discussed in the context of international service learning experiences and the requirements of the EWB-USA. Avenues for student involvement and engagement will be discussed along with models of extending the service projects to academic engagements and courses that requiring reflection, analysis and development of presentations and reports on these integrated service learning independent study projects.
Engineers Without Borders-USA–Howard University (EWB-HU)

• A non-profit 501(c)3 humanitarian organization established to partner with developing communities worldwide in order to improve their quality of life. This partnership involves the implementation of sustainable engineering projects, while involving and training interdisciplinary and engineering students.
Panama: Nearly 20 members of the Howard’s Engineers Without Borders (EWB-HU) and their advisors spent seven days in a little town 71 miles west of Panama City to restore and enhance Hogar de as de Penonome orphanage. The shelter houses girls ages seven to 18, many who lived in poverty in the country’s mountainous regions and were unable to attend school.
Brazil Theatre and Roof Design and Construction
Kenya – Water Quality and Sustainability Design
EWB-HU Kenya project team members relaxing on safari in Nakuru National Game Park after their project site visit was completed.

EWB-HU Kenya project team members assessing the Problem with the Siwo Secondary School well in the Nandi Hills Village of Choimim District in western Kenya.

EWB-HU Kenya Team project members working on the renovation of the school kitchen to improve ventilation and adhere more closely to Kenya Department of Health Guidelines.

EWB-HU Kenya Team members conducting a water sampling for water quality analysis of the water in one of the wells in the Noel Academy Campus in the Nandi Hills Village in the Choimim District of western Kenya.
EWB-HU Kenya Team members pose for a group shot after visiting the Bat Cave and Tea Estates in the Nandi Hills village community in the Choimim District of western Kenya.

EWB-HU Kenya Team members conducting a water sampling for water quality analysis of water in the stream near the Noel Academy Community Center and Campus in the Nandi Hills Village in the Choimim district of western Kenya.
EWB-HU Kenya project team members assessing and then repairing the problem with the Siwo Secondary School waterwell in the Nandi Hills Village of Choimim District in western Kenya. Caption applies to all photos.
(March 2010)
Engineers Without Borders Executive Board and Howard University staff honor Battelle Volunteers (Mr. Bobby Wilson and Mr. Craig Hatfield) in a Corporate Donor Reception