

by Katie Moffitt

A new and unique organization of enterprise architecture professional associations is on the horizon. The Federation of Enterprise Architecture Professional Organizations (FEAPO) is an association of worldwide professional organizations whose members have an active interest in the practice and professionalism of Enterprise Architecture (EA). 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 is the brainchild of Dr. Brian Cameron, Executive Director of the Center for Enterprise Architecture at Penn State, who actively engages with an EA advisory group of over 70 international corporations, industry associations and government agencies. The idea for the FEAPO organization originated in the spring of 2010 as Cameron was working with the different professional organizations involved in the Center for Enterprise Architecture. "The idea of FEAPO arose from the desire to do something about the current fragmentation between the many enterprise architecture related professional organizations," said Cameron. "I have been invited to serve on working committees of several of these organizations and have seen a lot of good work conducted. But also seeing much duplication of effort, I decided to try to do something about this situation for the general benefit of the profession".

Cameron 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.

"I wasn't sure how the June meeting would go. But everyone agreed to participate and the meeting was very productive. Since then the idea has continued to gain momentum," said Cameron.

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 broad umbrella of Enterprise Architecture to participate. "I assumed the responsibility of doing the initial contact with these groups as most organizations see me as a neutral facilitator. We continue to have an open call for organizations," said Cameron.

The first organizational meeting of FEAPO with this expanded group was conducted on January 27 and 28, 2011 at Computer Sciences Corporation's Executive Briefing Center in Falls Church, VA.

Michael W. Laphen, CEO of Computer Sciences Corporation and IST College Advisory Board member, offered to host the meeting.

The list of organizations involved in FEAPO is growing to be international and currently includes:

- Data Management International (DAMA International) & DAMA International Education and Research Foundation
- International Council on Systems Engineering (INCOSE)
- IEEE Computer Society
- International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
- The Association for Enterprise Information
- The Association for Open Group Enterprise Architects
- The Association of Business Process Management Professionals International
- The British Computer Society
- The Business Architecture Society
- The Business Architects Association
- The Canadian Information Processing Society (CIPS)
- The Center for the Advancement of the Enterprise Architecture Profession
- The Enterprise Architecture Shared Interest Group from the Industry Advisory Council
- The Global IT Community Association (GITCA)
- The Integration Consortium
- The International Federation for Information Processing International Professional Practice Partnership (IFIP IP3)
- The International Professional Enterprise Architecture Consortium (IPEAC)
- The National Association of State CIOs
- The Network Professional Association (NPA)
- The Object Management Group
- The Open Group

MITRE, Gartner, Forrester, and Cutter are functioning as external advisors during the startup process and input is also being provided from the Office of the Federal Chief Enterprise Architect, The National Defense University, and Federal CIOs.

“The discipline of Enterprise Architecture is at a critical juncture and the type of communication and collaboration opportunities that FEAPO offers is important to the continued maturation of the profession,” Cameron stated.

FEAPO is currently refining and ratifying a charter, governance structure, and developing short and long term goals for the organization. “We have good momentum, but there is still a lot of work to do,” said Cameron. For more information please contact Brian Cameron at bcameron@ist.psu.edu

