

Advancing the role of technicians within CDIO programs

How can we advance the identity of technicians in CDIO?

↻ **Some thoughts for you to think about**

- How can we ensure technicians understand what CDIO is?
- How do we support their engagement with the wider CDIO community?
- What are some of the potential barriers to engagement?
- What would the successful integration of Technicians look like in the future?

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Anonymous 2/29/24 1:51PM

Define « Why »: why technicians should participate? The need of having a strategy of implementing CDIO that include the technician's participation is fundamental.

Establish "How":

- the technicians can understand CDIO (organising serious games ?)
- the technicians can participate at implementing CDIO
- the technicians can work with the technicians of the other universities participating at CDIO
- the technician implication/investments can be "rewarded"

Sorin IGNAT (Arts et Métiers - France)

↻ **barrier: some academic staff can be reluctant to expose how little practical skill they possess and therefore do not want to get into discussions where the technician will have superior knowledge or experience**

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↻ **Technician is viewed as part of the CDIO module team. Included in all planning meetings and attend module throughout.**

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↻ There are certainly a few tiers of this from involvement in the wider aspects of planning and development in domestic courses in their own institution and then the expanded horizons to the community beyond. Feeling confident in their domestic role may encourage some to look wider but exposure to the wider view could also act as a catalyst for growth in their domestic role.

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↻ The Philippine setting's concern on technicians is that their qualifications and job descriptions are not clear as to their role in the implementation of the CDIO courses.

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Anonymous 2/29/24 1:45PM

Capacity-building for technicians; perhaps an multi-level training modules to ensure that they can catchup with the CDIO curriculum demand

⇌ **Create CDIO operational support track**

A track dedicated to supporting CDIO implementation could be very useful for both academics and technicians

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⇌ **How do we support their engagement: First we need to define their role within the CDIO framework. Maybe in the "Implementation and Operate" phases and not in the Conceive/Design Phases?**

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Anonymous 2/29/24 1:48PM

I agree with this.

⇌ **What is in it for me ? (Technician asks)**

1. Learning & Collaborating Forums on CDIO Website for Technicians
2. Facilities to Upskill yourself to lead your jobs better

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⇌ **Agency**

Feeling that you're part of a community (in my experience) often necessitates some form of agency, i.e. that they have some sort of power / authority / responsibility to control their own contributions and what they're bringing to the table, i.e. that they don't "just do what they're told". However, that might not be a good solution in cases where technicians are not as pedagogically skilled as faculty. A good middle-ground might be to introduce a practice where the faculty prepares most of the content, but leaves a small module for the technician to design him/herself (in a way that doesn't jeopardize the overall pedagogical quality). This might be used to introduce CDIO to the technician to encourage the technician to produce a module that's in line with the key points of CDIO. // Fredrik Byström

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⇌ **There are certainly however barriers in relation to aspirations and development not necessarily delivering personal outcomes (promotion, progression in careers)**

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↩ A change in the mindset of management is required - the value of engaging with CDIO needs to be recognised

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↩ **Look at introducing technician tracks at all regional meeting**

UK have included technician tracks at a number of UK meetings as well as the 2020 and 2023 EU meeting (both held in UK). We could do this again for the 2025 EU meeting in Porto before thinking about adding a tech track at the summer conference.

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↩ Have more technicians involved in writing papers!

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How should engage the workgroup at the CDIO International Conference?

↩ **Some thoughts for you to think about**

-What are some of the most critical activities that we should focus on first
-What would a successfully run 1st Workgroup meeting look like?

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Anonymous 2/29/24 1:52PM

As Thomas suggested we would want this to be driven or evolve into something being driven by Techs. I can't see papers etc. being attractive necessarily but workshops would be key. Eg. logistics of supporting CDIO (handling large numbers etc), evolving tech

↩ provide an consensus operating definitions for technicians, its role and its delineation to the role of the faculty as CDIO main implementers

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↩ **Technician in CDIO**

Possible Qualifications?
Possible roles in the CDIO framework?
To what extend in each category?

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Anonymous 2/29/24 1:53PM

Collect the various qualifications of technicians, their current roles and responsibilities and investigate the common grounds to start with

↩ **Workshops for Techs?**

A dedicated suite of workshops to understand CDIO

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↩ **Engagement (Why would they like to engage ?)**

1. let's think what do we want our technician to gain through collaboration / engagement
2. Engagement need not be restricted into a conference alone ?

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↩ **Technicians should also be most welcome at "academic" sessions like the CDIO introductory sessions**

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↩ **specific tech introductory sessions for new adopters.....what will it mean for techs, how can we support**

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↩ Identify CPD activities specific to CDIO and share with partners. We should also share case studies where technicians have lead activities

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↩ **Identify a suitable platform for sharing**

We really need a suitable online platform to facilitate all the collaboration. We have tried Teams in the UK but ran in to some difficulties with hosting at a one institute and inviting collaborators as guests.

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