

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**08.12.08**

**Engineers More Highly valued by developing nations.**

The Engineering and Technology Board (ETB) has today launched its annual flagship publication *Engineering UK 2008*, a comprehensive guide to the state of Engineering supply and demand in the UK which over the years has developed a profile as an informative, evidence-based document whose findings can be used across the science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, community to inform policy and generate action. A key finding of the report is that the less developed a country, the greater it's regard and appreciation for the vital, life-enhancing role of engineering and engineers.

Citing evidence from the Relevance of Science Education (ROSE) study in Norway, *Engineering UK 2008* demonstrates that there is an inverse relationship between the Human Development Index (HDI) of a country and the interest that students express in Engineering and Science so that as a country's infrastructure develops and quality of life rises, it's regard for science, engineering and technology falls.

It is thought that the link is due to the vital role that engineering and science play in improving the material conditions, welfare, health and economic growth in developing countries - a role that is seen as less pronounced in developed countries.

This goes some way towards explaining why many people are able to name great eighteenth and nineteenth century British engineers but fail to name any who are working today.

Dr John Morton, Chief Executive of the Engineering and Technology Board said:

"This research underlines the vital, life-enhancing role of engineers and engineering as recognised and appreciated most strongly in the developing world. Engineering is a key enabler of the health, wealth and prosperity of humankind, and engineers play a vital role in all aspects of the global economy and society at large. Engineers have been key to our development over the past three centuries and will continue to be. As technology advances it becomes ever more important that we have the skills, abilities and ingenuity of engineers and engineering technicians in the UK."

Paul Lester, Chief Executive of VT Group said:

"Engineering UK is a very useful narrative on the supply and demand issues of the engineering markets and will help inform future policy making"

**Notes to Editors**

1) The Engineering and Technology Board (ETB) is an independent organisation that promotes the vital role of engineers, engineering and technology in our society. The ETB partners business and industry, government and the wider STEM community: producing evidence on the state of engineering, and inspiring young people to choose a career in engineering, matching employers' demand for skills. For more information about the ETB please visit [www.eteachb.co.uk](http://www.eteachb.co.uk).

**For further information please contact:**

**Laura Marsh, Senior Communications Executive, the ETB**

**Tel: 020 3206 0444 or (m) 07887 943 017**

**Email: [lmars@eteachb.co.uk](mailto:lmars@eteachb.co.uk)**