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Newsletter of Association of
Sandwich Education & Training

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Comment

What's in a Sandwich?

'Sandwich education is based on the principle that well educated, mature individuals will develop more effectively through an educational pattern which, at periodic intervals, placed them in a world beyond the campus. Through these controlled and structured experiences the student brings an enrichment to the classroom which enhances their total career and personal development. Simultaneously, these students become a source of able manpower to employers - fully oriented to the organisation, tested in a real work situation and recruited in a manner far superior to, and less expensive than, an interview and plant visit.' So said Roy Wooldridge, North-eastern University, Boston, USA in a preview of the Second World Conference on Co-operative Education which is to be held at Boston on April 22/24th 1981.

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President's Address

'I welcome the formation of ASET'

Dr Christopher Wilson, International Computers Limited.

Much has been written and said over the last few years about the need for British industries to create wealth; wealth not only to maintain our current standard of living but, hopefully, to improve it. However, the creation of wealth demands resources, and even in the days of North Sea Oil, Britain's greatest resource must still be the inventiveness and application of its workforce. The effective exploitation of high technology is not the sole province of the Japanese. Such achievement demands not only inventiveness in the laboratory, but also professionalism in manufacture and aggressiveness in the market place. Scientific and technological expertise in itself is no longer enough; it has to be backed up by practical business sense.



ASET President Dr Christopher Wilson, Managing Director, ICL.

This is why International Computers Limited has long given enthusiastic support to co-operation between industry and education in the form of joint research projects and by offering some 150 students industrial training and sponsorship places each year. In my experience the Company has benefited from the contributions made during the period of industrial training and, in the majority of cases, by the eventual recruitment of an industrially mature enthusiastic employee. The student has benefited through first-hand experience of the realities involved in turning good ideas into practical products which can be manufactured and marketed profitably in competitive international markets. I welcome the formation of the Association of Sandwich

Education and Training since it will add a formal element to this valuable informal relationship. The Association will not only be a forum for the exchange of information and views between industry and education but also provide a body which can meaningfully discuss major topics with Government and with central business and educational organisations. +++

The Launch of ASET

Mr Alan Daniel - Chairman of ASET, Director of the Institute of Industrial Training, Brunel University

The coming together of employers and academics as members of an association which was concerned with promoting and improving the sandwich system of education and training, has been a goal in the minds of many people for some time. Parallel organisations have been successful in North America for many years and a proposal for a similar association in the UK was made at the First World Conference on Co-operative Education at Brunel in 1979. Encouraged by the support received there a group representing employers from the public and private sectors and from the Universities' and Polytechnics' Committees on Sandwich Courses began the process of establishing such a national association. Advice and support was also received from the Manpower Services Commission, the British Institute of Management and the Confederation of British Industry.

The Association for Sandwich Education & Training became a reality on the 1st January 1981 with Articles of Association drawn up registering ASET as a charity, and will continue with its present Executive Committee until its inaugural meeting on 12th June 1981. Arrangements are in hand for the election of members to the Executive Committee which will be announced shortly by the Secretary, Mr. Malcolm Brewer of Sheffield City Polytechnic. It is hoped that the present balance on the Executive Committee of employer representatives to academics will be maintained.

During the past year the Association has already organised a local and a national seminar which have demonstrated the role that ASET will have and has also given an early opportunity for discussion between employers and teachers on particular aspects of sandwich education. Other

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