



## WORLD ORGANIZATION OF BUILDING OFFICIALS

*IN SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
AND UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION*

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This year the World Organization of Building Officials celebrate their forty-year anniversary since its founding in June, 1984. Many knowledgeable people know that at the core of the organization resides a steadfast, guiding light affectionately referred to as Omi. Omkar Nath Channan was the Founding President and remains a Governor of WOBO.

Omkar was passionate about establishing a world-wide organization that would leave a legacy through the pursuit of its purpose, facilitate cooperation and coordination among member nations and promote global initiatives to the benefit of humanity. He made a submission to the United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations on 24th February, 1987, and at its recommendation the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, at its full regular session on 19th May, 1987, granted Category II Consultative Status (now known as Special Consultative Status) to the World Organization of Building Officials.

Omi's life has truly been extraordinary. I encourage everyone to review his bio at WOBO-UN.ORG; click on ABOUT in the top masthead; then click on Board of Governors to find his bio. A quick recap on what Omi started forty years ago:

June 1984

The general meeting was planned to be part of the first International Building Officials World Conference. This conference was held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada June 3-8, 1984.

At this meeting, a motion was passed to form an international body of building officials. This body was to be called the World Organization of Building Officials. (WOBO) and it was to be associated with the United Nations.

The founding of WOBO was voted on and approved by representatives from the following countries: Australia, Botswana, Canada, Hong Kong, India, Kenya, Malaysia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, and United States of America. A representative of the United Nations was also present. Letters of support were received from 40 other countries.

This organization as well as all who have the privilege of knowing Omi, have come away better because of him! WELL DONE SIR!

**Paul Myers WOBO President**