



Mechanical Engineering
Academy of Distinguished Alumni

Frank P. Sebastian

Mechanical Engineering Hall of Fame, 2005

BSME, The University of Texas at Austin, 1944
MBA, Stanford University, 1948

Senior Vice President
Projects Internations, Inc.

Following receipt of a BSME degree in October 1944 courtesy of the Navy V-12 Program, the Navy sent Frank to Cornell for the Steam Engineering Course. He was almost booted out of midshipman's school due to his limited eyesight, but the Navy finally changed his scheduled duty on a destroyer to duty in the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. After obtaining an MBA from Stanford in 1948 -- where he met his wife, Barrie, and has lived and mostly worked nearby ever since -- he started work in manufacturing at Shopsmith Home Woodworking Tools, then from 1961 until taking early executive retirement in 1985 from Envirotech Corp, latterly as Executive VP/Office of the Chairman. Frank became a lifetime member of AIChE, as many activities involved working with and on behalf of chemical engineers. Since then, he has been active in international trade with Projects International of Washington, D.C. as Senior VP, Projects International specializes in pro-active services for mostly U.S. companies that have a problem or need in a foreign country, such as finding a distributor, licensee, joint venture partner, or resolving a dispute with a foreign company or government.

Frank has served on several U.S. Government committees, primarily focusing on international environmental issues. These positions have included serving as a member of the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Management Advisory Group of the Construction Grants Program, Director of four Commerce Department Trade Missions on US Environmental Technology to Japan and various European countries, and a member of the US EPA-USSR Working Party for Prevention of Industrial and Municipal Environmental Pollution, which has included more than a dozen annual meetings and site visits throughout the former Soviet Union. Frank was Co-Leader of the first U.S. business delegations to the People's Republic of China in 1972 and the environmental representative on the First Commerce Department Executive Level Trade Mission to the former Soviet Union in 1973.

He has held a number of other directorships, including Chairman of the Environmental Industry Council, President of the Water and Wastewater Equipment Manufacturers Association, and Director of California Council of International Trade.

Frank and Barrie live in the town of Atherton in Northern California, near Palo Alto. They have two children living in the San Francisco Bay Area and three grandchildren.