

FOREWORD

In my professional and academic life in Australia, which started in the then School of Electrical Engineering at the University of Sydney on 7 July 1981, I decided to continue my strong interest and engagement in engineering and technology education so well developed during my previous employment in my native Poland. A few years later, I realised that there was an urgent need in Australia for a specific society dedicated to matters related to engineering education at a tertiary level. In recognising this obvious deficiency, I decided to do something about it and, late in 1988, I discussed this matter with relevant persons at the Institution of Engineers, Australia (IEAust). There was an encouraging response from the IEAust Executive to the idea of setting up an association for engineering education as a professional society within the IEAust.

The management of the then School of Electrical Engineering at the University of Sydney, including the Head of School, the late Prof. Hugo Karl Messerle and Prof. Trevor W. Cole, were extremely enthusiastic about the idea, and that the School, and especially its Electrical Engineering Foundation (EEF), should provide the necessary facilities and support for this initiative. The preparations for the *2nd World Conference on Engineering Education for Advancing Technologies*, carried out at the School late in 1988, provided the needed impetus for the realisation of this important undertaking.

It was at the *2nd World Conference on Engineering Education for Advancing Technologies*, held at the University of Sydney between 13 and 17 February 1989, that a meeting of a group of about 50 academics, industry leaders and practicing engineers from Australian and New Zealand initiated the official process of the establishment of the Australasian Association for Engineering Education (AAEE). An interim committee was formed to oversee the creation of the Association with the author having a pivotal role. The objectives of the AAEE, as seen at that time, are elaborated on in the first issue of the AAEE Newsletter that was published in June 1989.

This year (2008) sees the 20th anniversary of the birth of the idea of setting up the AAEE and, in this year, the AAEE completes the first 20 years of its successful operation. Although no longer involved in the life and activities of the AAEE, I have had a feeling that the enormous amount of work and dedication to this Association that spans the period of over eight years between its initiation in 1988 and my resignation from the Association in March 1997, which is well documented in the AAEE Newsletter, deserve not to be totally forgotten. It should be mentioned that during that time I was the elected 1st Vice-President and Executive Director; Editor of the AAEE Newsletter and, the founder and Editor of the *Australasian Journal of Engineering Education* (AJEE).

Hence the publication of this book, which is a collection of all the issues of the AAEE Newsletter produced under my editorship, copies of which may have only been in my possession. Only a few copies of this book have been prepared, with one copy to be provided to the National Library of Australia, so that future readers may find this material informative, historical and, perhaps, educational, and that the comprehensive information about the efforts in building this Association is preserved for the next generations.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all those colleagues who collaborated with me and assisted me in this work, especially the Inaugural President of the AAEE, Professor Emeritus Trevor W. Cole of the University of Sydney, and Professor Emeritus Peter LePoer Darvall of Monash University, who has, so far, been the longest serving President of the AAEE (1992-1995).

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