

1st WIETE Annual Conference on Engineering and Technology Education

Preface

These Conference Proceedings include paper contributions submitted for the *1st WIETE Annual Conference on Engineering and Technology Education*, under the theme *New Opportunities and Challenges*, to be held by the World Institute for Engineering and Technology Education (WIETE) at Seri Place Hotel in Pattaya, Thailand, between 22 and 25 February 2010.

With the closure of the UNESCO International Centre for Engineering Education (UICEE) in December 2008, many members of the *global family of engineering education* felt there was a prevailing need to fill this gap by establishing the World Institute for Engineering and Technology Education (WIETE) so that their global effort could continue. Hence, the WIETE was established as a company incorporated in the State of Victoria, Australia, conducting its activities as the rightful successor of the UICEE, with the following motto: *Serving the International Engineering and Technology Community*.

Based on extensive experience gained earlier in conducting research, development and promotional activities in the international arena, the principal strategy envisaged for the WIETE is to create an independent, interactive and friendly international environment in which academics, industry leaders and members of the global community can freely express their views and develop ideas without prejudice or discrimination.

In its mission, the WIETE seeks to advance continued growth and evolution in knowledge and understanding in engineering and technology education by publishing strictly refereed international articles in the field, thereby benefiting humankind by providing the next generation of engineers and technologists with a greater knowledge of educational methods.

The paramount aim of this Conference is to bring together members and associates of the WIETE, as well as other international academics, to identify and discuss challenges and opportunities for the WIETE and its global operation. It is also to set the intellectual foundation for WIETE's further development. Sharing new ideas, discussing the needs for innovation and airing the issues of importance for engineering and technology education, are also Conference objectives.

This Conference is a special occasion for members and associates of the WIETE, to celebrate the Institute's first year of eventful and successful operation. The WIETE has attracted the most loyal and dedicated of colleagues and friends who, despite the global economic hardship, are showing support of the WIETE and its global cause by submitting their valuable research papers and attending this Conference.

These Proceedings include 23 fully peer-reviewed thought-provoking and insightful papers from authors based in 12 countries, worldwide, and they come from a variety of backgrounds covering a wide range of issues, topics, ideas, problems and challenges faced by academics involved in engineering and technology education. Several articles deal with cross-disciplinary matters to promote and encourage interdisciplinary research, development and international collaboration.

On behalf of members and associates of the WIETE, and, indeed, myself, I would like to thank the authors of these papers for their keenness in sharing their research accomplishments. Special thanks are extended to the referees, who have committed their precious time to refereeing the papers included in these Proceedings.

Also, I wish to express sincere gratitude to Ms Elena A. Danilova, Dr Ian R. Dobson, Ms Dianne Q. Nguyen and Ms Krystyna Wareing for their invaluable assistance in publishing these Proceedings.

Zenon J. Pudlowski