

2nd World Conference on Technology and Engineering Education

Preface

These Proceedings include papers submitted for the 2nd *World Conference on Technology and Engineering Education* (2WCTEE). The Conference was organised by the World Institute for Engineering and Technology Education (WIETE) in collaboration with the Department of Physics and Technical Studies (DPTS) in the Faculty of Education at the University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia, and held at this University between 5 and 8 September 2011.

The 2nd *World Conference on Technology and Engineering Education* was a continuation of the series of international gatherings, initiated in Kraków, Poland, in September 2010. The Conference builds on a number of extremely successful events, including the World Conference on Engineering Education (Sydney 1989, Portsmouth 1992, Minneapolis - St Paul 1995); East-West Congress on Engineering Education (Kraków 1991, Łódź 1993, Gdynia 1996); and then the Global Congress on Engineering Education (Kraków 1998, Wismar 2000, Glasgow 2002, Bangkok 2004 and New York 2006).

These Proceedings include 23 papers, fully peer-reviewed by independent international referees, representing contributions from authors based in eight countries worldwide. The papers originate from different cultures and cover a variety of views on contemporary issues that are being faced by academics and industry personnel involved in engineering and technology education.

The Proceedings commence with three Opening Addresses presented at the Conference Opening Session. The first Opening Address comes from Professor A. Kalanidhi, a distinguished academic based in Chennai, India, entitled *Quality in higher education - a comparative study of campus and virtual education*. This is followed by a paper from the host institution, authored by Associate Professor Slavko Kocijancic: *An overview of research and development activities in technology education carried out at the Faculty of Education at the University of Ljubljana*. A paper by Professor Harold P. Sjursen of the Polytechnic Institute of New York University, entitled *What philosophy can learn from engineering - the impact of emerging technologies on the social world* concludes the Opening Addresses Session.

Several of the other papers included in these Proceedings deal with cross-disciplinary matters such as mathematics, physics and information technology. They are intended to promote and encourage interdisciplinary research, development and international collaboration.

On behalf of members and associates of the WIETE and the DPTS, the Editors would like to express their sincere gratitude to the authors of the papers included in these Proceedings, specifically for their keenness to share their research and development achievements with likeminded academics. Particular thanks go to the referees, who volunteered their precious time to referee the papers included in these Proceedings. The Editors also wish to acknowledge, with special thanks, the assistance received from those at the WIETE in Melbourne and the DPTS in Ljubljana, in staging the Conference, as well as for their considerable assistance in publishing these Proceedings.

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