

3rd WIETE Annual Conference on Engineering and Technology Education

Preface

These Conference Proceedings published by the World Institute for Engineering and Technology Education (WIETE), include paper contributions accepted for the 3rd *WIETE Annual Conference on Engineering and Technology Education*, to be held at Seri Place Hotel in Pattaya, Thailand, between 6 and 10 February 2012, under the overarching theme *Networking in Engineering and Technology Education*.

These Proceedings include 16 fully peer-reviewed papers that have come from authors based in ten countries, worldwide. Readers will find them to be highly informative, interesting and meaningful attempts to address a wide range of contemporary issues. The papers cover a range of topics, problems and challenges faced by academics involved in engineering and technology education in an era of rapid technological change and global financial problems. It is pleasing to note that strong concern has been expressed regarding the impact of the current situation on the quality of education of future graduates with ever diminishing public support for education. Therefore, it is anticipated that the senior members of academia attending this WIETE Annual Conference will discuss the ways in which the WIETE, through its considerable global network, may be able to use its meetings to air the concerns and offer potential solutions to current problems.

One tremendous challenge that all members of the WIETE network face is to stimulate action by more WIETE members to take an active role in our endeavour to create a strong lobby group. In this way, we will be able to assume effective global leadership for the advancement of engineering and technology education. Hence, we must try to unlock the huge intellectual potential accumulated within our senior members to meet the challenge. Our prevailing motto is: *Serving the International Engineering and Technology Community*, and all WIETE members must identify themselves with this motto by contributing to the further advancement of engineering and technology education.

It is hoped that deliberations at the Conference, whether formal ones based on the presented papers, or those less formal, will create a new momentum in the advancement of our cause. I strongly believe that the papers included in these Proceedings will stimulate an atmosphere conducive to achieving this aim.

Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to the authors of the papers included in these Proceedings for their eagerness to share their research accomplishments with other likeminded colleagues, and to the independent international referees, who have committed their precious time to reviewing these papers. Moreover, I would like to thank Dr Ian R. Dobson and Dr Dianne Q. Nguyen for their considerable contribution to the process of preparing these Proceedings for publication.

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