

4th 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 submitted for the 4th *WIETE Annual Conference on Engineering and Technology Education*, to be held at Pacific International Cairns Hotel, Queensland, Australia, between 11 and 15 February 2013, under the theme *Collaboration in Engineering and Technology Education*.

The principal objective of the Conference is to bring together partners, members, associates, supporters and friends of the WIETE to continue discussion on issues of importance to engineering and technology education, with particular emphasis on the main Conference theme. To debate the opportunities for future international collaboration and potential activities of the WIETE, to foster friendships already established through its predecessor, to enhance the existing and develop new links and networks, and to set the stage for more innovative and collaborative ventures are the important aims of the Conference.

The Conference theme *Collaboration in Engineering and Technology Education* was chosen to facilitate discussions and personal interaction between academics involved in engineering and technology education from different cultural backgrounds. The theme will allow participants to identify and present best collaborative programmes and projects, as well as examples relevant to the main theme. Addressing issues of concern and discussing the status and quality of global engineering and technology education are also important objectives of the Conference.

The Conference Proceedings include 15 papers fully peer-reviewed by independent international referees that air and deal with a wide range of existing issues, topics, ideas, problems and challenges faced by academics involved in engineering and technology education, in an era of rapid technological change and financial austerity measures. As indicated by the reviewers, the papers are very enlightening, motivating and central to the effort of contemporary academics, based in 9 countries, in developing further engineering and technology education.

Cairns in North Queensland, Australia, is one of the world's most interesting places for environmentalists and academics concerned about the environment and its preservation for future generations. The proximity of the Pacific Rim, widely regarded as the pearl of the South Pacific, permits an unforgettable experience and the opportunity of encountering an environment that is unique in every respect. Also, there are other magnificent places to visit, such as the world's most beautiful rainforest, the mountains, the ocean and other destinations that provide a unique, spectacular and picturesque environment. Hence, it is envisaged that Conference participants will have a chance to make a day-long study excursion to the Great Barrier Reef and explore this environmental wonder first hand. Also, it is anticipated that Conference participants will share the experience with students in their home countries.

It is believed that the papers included in these Proceedings will create a solid background for useful discussions during the Conference. For those who, unfortunately, cannot attend this Conference, it is hoped that these Proceedings will provide valuable reference material and a source of information on academic achievements and current debate in engineering and technology education.

In conclusion, on behalf of WIETE members, associates and sympathisers, and indeed myself, I wish to thank the contributors to this set of Proceedings for their willingness to share their ideas and achievements with other international colleagues, and to the referees, who have dedicated their precious time and effort to reviewing these papers. Sincere gratitude is offered to Dr Dianne Q. Nguyen and Ms Krystyna B. Wareing, for their considerable contribution to the process of preparing these Proceedings for publication.

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