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## Editorial

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It is my real pleasure and, indeed, honour to present this Special Edition of the *Global Journal of Engineering Education* (GJEE), Vol.10, No.1, under the subtitle *The UICEE and its Pillars in Engineering Education*, to our international readers. This Edition consists of articles in which several active members of the UNESCO International Centre for Engineering Education (UICEE) present their lifetime research, development and publication achievements in engineering and technology education, as well as their role as the so-called *pillars* of the advancements and accomplishments of the UICEE.

It is, most definitely, a special occasion for the UICEE, which has recently completed its 12 years of vigorous and efficient operation with the most appropriate and relevant motto: *Serving the international engineering community*, and has commenced the 10<sup>th</sup> year of publication of its *Global Journal of Engineering Education* (GJEE), the *flagship* publication of the UICEE. It should be emphasised at this point that a wide range of research and development activities in engineering and technology education have been carried out by staff, students, associates and members of the UICEE over the last 12 years, with many distinguished international individuals contributing to this effort. Unfortunately, not all of them are represented in this Special Edition due to various reasons. However, the articles written by those present in this Edition document well their significant undertakings and accomplishments.

The GJEE has, over the last nine years, reported on a multitude of new research and development activities undertaken by academics on a worldwide basis, as well as those achievements stimulated and carried out by the UICEE staff, students and associates. Among the achievements of the UICEE, two important breakthroughs should be mentioned at this point, that is the establishment of the UICEE's *World Transactions on Engineering and Technology Education* (WTE&TE) in 2002 and the opening of the UICEE European Headquarters (UICEE-EHQ) in Wismar, Germany, in 2004, with Hochschule Wismar – University of Technology, Business and Design being the prime instigator and host.

The first undertaking permits global academics to disseminate information on recent advancements in research and development in engineering and technology education in order to continue the growth and evolution in knowledge and understanding in engineering and technology education, thereby benefiting humankind by providing for the next generation of engineers and technologists with greater knowledge in educational methods. This grossly complements the mission and the objectives of the GJEE. Whereas the second initiative has already helped the UICEE to strengthen its position on the European scene by drawing upon the expertise and involvement of those UICEE Partner Institutions, which are based in Europe.

This Special Edition of the GJEE, which also commences the 13<sup>th</sup> year of the operation of the UICEE, consists of 11 highly informative articles, showcasing individual contributions of those members of the UICEE global network of engineering education, who have dedicated their academic lives to pursuing research, development and promotional activities in engineering education, and who have made an outstanding contribution to the activities and achievements of the UICEE.

Finally, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the authors of the articles included in this Special Edition, who are the most active members of the *UICEE Global Family of Engineering Educators*. Their life contribution to engineering education presented in these articles has, indeed, made a tremendous impact on the status and quality of global engineering education, as well as contributed strongly to the internationalisation process of higher education generally.

It is my strong belief that this Special Edition of the GJEE, with articles by these highly reputable international academics, will become an important source of information on engineering education and that readers will find the ideas and achievements presented herein relevant and applicable to their academic life and practice.