

Editorial

It appears that we have reached a new stage in the Covid-19 saga, where more emphasis is being placed on invigorating the global economy rather than the preservation of human life, especially that of older generations. This is more pronounced in certain countries, such as Australia, which at the initial stages of the pandemic opted for strict border closure, numerous lockdowns and social restrictions. The pandemic, as evidenced in several articles published in the WIETE journals, has made an enormous impact on the statutory activities of universities, and especially on the teaching/learning process. Considering the enormity of the problem, it is commendable that so many institutions have addressed pandemic-related issues with energy and imagination, leading perhaps to new ways of knowledge delivery for years to come. However, as some of our authors observed, not all educational activities can be transferred to the Cloud. This applies also, to some extent, to the WIETE conferences with their long tradition of face-to-face delivery. As I have already stated in my earlier editorials, we still hope that the situation will stabilise in 2022 to enable us to conduct the postponed *8th Mediterranean Seminar on Engineering and Technology Education*, originally to have been held in Athens, Greece, in September 2020.

Another planned activity for 2022 is the *2022 Conference on Engineering and Architecture Design Education (EADE-2022)*, which during the last two years has been organised over the Internet instead of in person. I recognise that there are several challenges to overcome when hosting a conference during a pandemic. Hence, I am not surprised that our potential hosts are not as enthusiastic about this undertaking as they used to be in the past. Moreover, the tremendous organisation effort may not necessarily be matched by the high participation level and quality scientific outcomes. This can be disheartening for the organisers. Nevertheless, as our mission is to exchange views with the global engineering education community, we would welcome comments and suggestions from our readers regarding conference organisation.

As far as the publishing arm of the WIETE is concerned, it is encouraging to see our colleagues conducting research and development activities, and submitting the outcomes thereof to our journals. I am delighted to inform our readers that the inaugural annual issue of the Global Journal of Engineering Education (GJEE), designated as Vol.24, No.1, consists of ten articles that have come from seven countries globally. Four articles came from the Russian Federation and one article each from such countries as Colombia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Spain, Thailand and the United Arab Emirates.

I wish to express my deepest gratitude to the authors of these articles for their eagerness to share their research achievements with other likeminded international colleagues. I also acknowledge, with thanks, tremendous commitment to the WIETE by our international referees who reviewed the articles. My sincere appreciations are extended to the members of the WIETE editorial team that consists of colleagues, such as Dr Dianne Q. Nguyen, Mrs Dorota I. Pudlowski, Associate Professor Arthur J. Swart and Professor Robert Špaček. Also, I am delighted to acknowledge the involvement of new Associate Editors of the GJEE, both former Presidents of the WIETE International Academic Advisory Committee (IAAC), Professor Derek O. Northwood (Inaugural), and Professor Andrew Nafalski.

I hope that our readers will find this this issue interesting, stimulating and thought provoking.

Zenon J. Pudlowski