

---

## Editorial

---

The UICEE annual conferences have established themselves as a prime activity of the UICEE to promote the exchange of information on engineering and technology education, and have been a source of excellent papers, describing new research and developmental ventures carried out in this area of academic endeavour. Readers should not forget that the UICEE did not organise UICEE annual conferences in the first years of its operation. The extremely successful 6<sup>th</sup> UICEE Annual Conference on Engineering Education, which was held in Cairns, Australia, was an academic activity that, basically, commenced the 10<sup>th</sup> year of operation of the UICEE. It attracted many participants worldwide, who brought with them a multitude of interesting new ideas, research findings and accomplished developments.

The 6<sup>th</sup> UICEE Annual Conference eventuated at a time of a rapidly deteriorating international political climate, and was conducted in the wake of the military confrontation in Iraq. However, the spirit of the Conference was that of cooperation, mutual respect and harmony between participants. It should be pointed out that the papers presented during the Conference, apart from demonstrating its merit and academic achievements, generated considerable discussions on how to better strengthen collaboration for the benefit of all nations the world over.

This regular issue of the *Global Journal of Engineering Education* (GJEE), Volume 7, Number 2, presents a real account of the issues, topics and ideas aired, addressed and discussed at the Conference, as it includes papers presented at the Conference, predominantly those that received UICEE awards. It is the UICEE's tradition to present UICEE Best Paper Awards at its conferences, and this annual Conference was no exception. Hence, registered participants had the opportunity of selecting and awarding the best papers included in the Conference Proceedings and presented at the Conference that offered the most significant contribution to the field of engineering and technology education. As a result, the expanded and revised versions of the award papers are included in this issue of the GJEE.

Moreover, on this special occasion, the UICEE Director chose to unveil the Director's Choice Awards, which recognised five papers included in the Conference Proceedings that were presented at the Conference, but which deserved additional recognition as they advanced the globalisation of engineering education and generated discussions beyond the Conference forum. Readers will find the expanded and revised versions of four of those papers selected by the UICEE Director, being included in this issue, and will have the opportunity to judge the quality of these papers by themselves, and hence scrutinise the Director's choice.

On behalf of the UICEE staff and members, and indeed myself, I wish to express our sincere thanks to the contributors to this issue of the GJEE, as well as to the referees for their excellent job done of assessing the quality of the papers.

**Zenon J. Pudlowski**

