
Editorial

This Special Edition of the *Global Journal of Engineering Education* (GJEE), Vol.8, No.1, consist of articles concerning the role, status, achievements and future plans of the UNESCO International Centre for Engineering Education (UICEE) and some of its sub-centres, the so-called *satellite* centres of the UICEE. It marks a special occasion for the UICEE, which has completed 10 years of vigorous operation with the most appropriate and relevant motto: *Serving the international engineering community*. At this point, it should be mentioned that a wide range of research and development activities in engineering and technology education have been carried out by staff, students and associates of the UICEE over the last ten years. This is well documented in the opening article of this Edition.

In 1997, a crucial decision was made to open up the Centre in order to allow other academic institutions to become members of the UICEE. As a consequence, the UICEE currently enjoys partnerships with 20 academic institutions worldwide. Under these partnerships, the satellite centres of the UICEE have been established or are presently in the process of being established. The paramount objective of these satellite centres is to promote and carry out research and development activities in engineering education and, where appropriate, to further enhance the work of the so-called *UICEE Global Family of Engineering Educators*.

The world has become a global community, which now provides more opportunities for collaboration and networking. The increased level of the internationalisation of engineering education has provided academic institutions with new opportunities for further cooperation in the international arena by building new, and expanding existing, regional and global networks for engineering education. In establishing this journal in 1997, the name, *Global Journal of Engineering Education*, was chosen to reinforce the process of globalisation through engineering education and to emphasise the global nature, interest and operation of the UICEE.

This Special Edition of the GJEE also commences the 11th year of the operation of the UICEE. The global political and economic uncertainties, as well as the constant threat of terrorist attacks, have caused a significant slow down and disruption of some of our activities, especially with UICEE-run conferences. Hence, a special and critical role of the GJEE is to identify, present and promote best projects, programmes and examples in engineering education, as well as to address issues of concern and discuss the status and quality of global engineering education. As such, the GJEE has become a useful source of information on research and development activities in engineering and technology education, seen within the context of educating future engineers for the global community.

We are particularly pleased to be able to present to our readers the *Foreword* to this Edition by Prof. Richard Larkins AO, Vice-Chancellor and President of Monash University, the host institution of the UICEE, which portrays the global climate and environment in which the UICEE operates, as well as the role of engineering education in order to help solve existing and emerging global problems.

Finally, it is my great honour and privilege to acknowledge the enormous input to this Special Edition by the article contributions from the most active members of the *UICEE Global Network*, which best demonstrates their exceptional dedication to the cause of global engineering education, and their belief in the UICEE and its role in the process of globalisation of engineering education. Also, special thanks are directed to the referees of these articles, who have committed their time and effort in order to referee these articles at short notice, as well as the diligence and commitment of all those involved in the preparation of this Special Edition for the publication.

Zenon J. Pudlowski

