

Editorial

I am pleased to report that the WIETE has commenced 2014 with a large issue of the World Transactions on Engineering and Technology Education (WTE&TE), designated as Vol.12, No.1. It includes 22 highly enlightening and instructive articles, all but one of which emanate from academics of higher education institutions in the People's Republic of China.

In many of the Chinese articles, the authors have endeavoured to address issues that can be described by keywords that include *innovation, talent cultivation, entrepreneurship* and *practical abilities*. These may suggest that engineering and technology in China are in a transition period, moving from educating workers for a highly labour-intensive economy to one involving a smart and innovative economy, where the role of an engineer or a technologist is not limited to the management of production processes and industrial operations, but also involves innovation and advancement in these professions by creative and original discoveries, inventions and designs. These will all require thorough reform of the educational system, which could be achieved by introducing new teaching/learning modes.

The article not from China that opens this issue was co-authored by Stanislav Avsec, David Rihtaršič and Slavko Kocijancic of the Faculty of Education at the University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia. It is entitled *Students' satisfaction with an INFIRO robotic direct manipulation learning environment*, and reports on the outcome of the European Union funded project INFIRO, concerning students' satisfaction in a specific *robotic direct manipulation learning environment*. One of the authors' conclusions is that *...the practical implications of this study are that both instructors and course designers should pay attention to content design and organisation given that learner-instructor interaction substantially contributes to student satisfaction*.

On another matter, it is my pleasure to inform our readers that preparations are in full swing for the 3rd World Conference on Technology and Engineering Education, to be held at the Technological Education Institute of Piraeus, Piraeus-Athens, Greece, between 8 and 11 September 2014. This will provide global engineering and technology educators with the opportunity to present their research and development activities and achievements, and exchange ideas on how to improve this area of academic endeavour for the benefit of our main clients: the students.

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the referees for their excellent and timely assessment of the articles. Special words of appreciation are also due to our Associate Editors, Dr Dianne Q. Nguyen, Ms Krystyna B. Wareing and Dr Ian R. Dobson, for their invaluable assistance in making this issue available to the international public.

Zenon J. Pudlowski