

Editorial

Work on the organisation of the *8th WIETE Annual Conference on Engineering and Technology Education* is in full swing. The Conference will be held between 20 and 24 February 2017 at Cinnamon Residence in Bangkok, Thailand, under the theme *Bringing Engineering and Technology Educators Together*. Considering the still uncertain global economy and poorly financed public education institutions, the response to the call for papers has been more than encouraging. Consequently, an editorial decision was made to publish Conference paper contributions in two consecutive issues of the World Transactions on Engineering and Technology Education (WTE&TE) that is in Vol.14, No.4 and Vol.15, No.1.

Therefore, this issue of the WTE&TE, Vol.14, No.4, consists of the first batch of papers submitted to the Conference. It includes 22 articles that have come from countries such as the People's Republic of China (9), Poland (3), Slovenia (2), the United Arab Emirates (2), and one article from each of Australia, India, Indonesia, Slovakia, Taiwan and Thailand. Editorial work has commenced on the second batch of Conference papers, with the objective of releasing them to the public soon after the Conference. In this way, the Conference organisers have created an opportunity for those colleagues who may still wish to attend the Conference and present their research papers, but who were unable to submit their papers earlier. The Conference announcement, including a call for paper contributions, is available at the following address: <http://www.wiete.com.au/conferences/8wiete/index.html>

One should not underestimate the impact of the recent *International Conference on New Building Technologies and Architectural Design - NBTAD 2016* that was held in the Faculty of Architecture at Cracow University of Technology (CUT), Kraków, Poland, between 13 and 14 October 2016. This was a stimulus for many involved in the education of architects and engineers to focus on the revision of teaching methods for undergraduate and postgraduate students. There is a strong move to make use of more active, student-centred approaches to education. Following on from this experience, the WIETE will focus on the promotion of those academic institutions and independent groupings of academics particularly interested in research and development in this area. Along this line, it is envisaged that two special sessions will be staged at the 8th WIETE Annual Conference. The first of these will be entitled *Research and Development Activities in Architecture Education in the Faculty of Architecture at Cracow University of Technology - Some Examples*, to be chaired and moderated by Professor Waław Celadyn of the Faculty of Architecture at Cracow University of Technology, Kraków, Poland. The second special session, entitled *Research and Development Activities in Aviation and Aviation Technology - Some Examples*, will be chaired and moderated by Professor Steven Thatcher, Foundation Chair of Aviation at the University of Central Queensland in Cairns, Australia.

On behalf of the editorial team, I wish to thank the authors for their valuable contributions to the WIETE Annual Conference and look forward to their Conference presentations and useful discussion. Special thanks are extended to the referees for their expeditious assessment of the articles.

Last but not least, I wish to offer words of appreciation and thanks to the WIETE editorial team consisting of Dr Dianne Q. Nguyen, Mrs Dorota I. Pudlowski, Ms Krystyna Wareing and Dr Ian R. Dobson. I thank them for their support and contribution to the work in preparing this issue for publication and global distribution.

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