

Editorial

Although the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic in Poland is still unclear, preparations are in full swing for the 2020 Conference on Engineering and Architecture Design Education (EADE-2020) to be held in the Faculty of Architecture at Gdańsk University of Technology, Gdańsk, Poland, between 15 and 19 June 2020. The final decision as to the conduct of the Conference depends very much on the ministerial order concerning the organisation of international conferences on university campuses, and the number of participants allowed to take part physically in such gatherings.

Despite this huge uncertainty with the coronavirus pandemic, we have received a good number of paper proposals for the planned 8th Mediterranean Seminar on Engineering and Technology Education, scheduled for Athens, Greece, between 14 and 18 September 2020. Notwithstanding the Greek government's recent easing of the tough restrictions, it is really hard to predict whether the Seminar will take place at the given time. As I wrote in my abstract acceptance message sent to all the potential participants, we will make a final decision concerning the conduct of the Seminar in mid- to late August, this year. We may even postpone it, and hold it in April 2021 (perhaps between 12 and 16 April 2021).

On a positive note, despite this international calamity, we have experienced a strong influx of research papers submitted to our international journals. Hence, this issue of the World Transactions on Engineering and Technology Education (WTE&TE), marked Vol.18, No.2, consist of 28 interesting and stimulating articles, mostly generated in conjunction with the organised and planned WIETE conferences, such as the 11th WIETE Annual Conference on Engineering and Technology Education and the 2020 Conference on Engineering and Architecture Design Education (EADE-2020). The majority of these papers deal with current and important issues that concern predominantly architectural engineering education.

I wish to inform our readers that the forthcoming issue of the WTE&TE, Vol.18, No.3, will be dedicated mostly to papers originated in relation to the EADE-2020 Conference. We are delighted that we have been able to secure considerable editorial assistance in the preparation of articles accepted for inclusion in this issue from Professor Jakub Szczepański, Vice-Dean for Research, in the Faculty of Architecture at Gdańsk University of Technology, Gdańsk, Poland, who agreed to be the Guest Editor of this issue.

In summarising the publication effort with this present issue, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to members of the editorial team consisting of Dr Dianne Q. Nguyen, Mrs Dorota I. Pudlowski, Mrs Krystyna Wareing, Mr Nial Wareing and Prof. Robert Špaček for their valuable contribution to the preparation of these articles for publication. Also, my special thanks are extended to the authors of these articles, as well as to the referees who reviewed and assessed them in a short period of time. I strongly believe that readers will find the articles included in this issue stimulating and thought provoking.

In conclusion, in these unprecedented times of the COVID-19 pandemic, I am sure that our readers and members of the WIETE will join me in expressing our sincere gratitude and admiration to medical scientists and the entire medical profession for what they have been doing in combatting the coronavirus crisis, trying their best to preserve the health and lives of so many people around the world. Also, our heartfelt appreciation and thanks extend to all the service people who despite putting their own lives at risk provide the necessary services for the locked-down population - you are all real heroes, indeed!

Zenon J. Pudlowski