

World Transactions on Engineering and Technology Education

Editorial

All of us at the WIETE are delighted and honoured to be publishing another regular issue of the *World Transactions on Engineering & Technology Education* (WTE&TE). This issue, Vol.8, No.1, commences the eighth year of our persistent efforts in publishing research articles that deal with targeted and critical issues in engineering and technology education. We are proud of the fact that we have revived the WTE&TE as an important international source of information and as a benchmark journal for sharing information on research and developmental activities carried out in this area of academic endeavour.

In the previous editorial, I raised the issue of the increased interest and involvement in research, development and application of modern information technology and the Internet to the teaching-learning processes in engineering and technology education. We are, indeed, delighted that the 1st *WIETE Annual Conference on Engineering and Technology Education*, held in Pattaya, Thailand, between 22 and 25 February 2010, provided a forum for the promotion of this new academic endeavour, where several researchers had the opportunity to present their research and development achievements in creating e-learning facilities and systems, including virtual engineering laboratories, remotely accessible and operated laboratories, etc.

Moreover, apart from the regular papers presented on this subject at the Conference, a special workshop entitled *Collaboration in Remote Engineering Laboratories* was carried out by a team of academics led by Prof. Andrew Nafalski of the University of South Australia (UniSA). So successful was this workshop that a decision was made to produce a Special Issue of the WTE&TE, marked Vol.8, No.2, titled *E-learning Facilities and Systems in Engineering and Technology Education*. The issue will be dedicated entirely to this important area, with two Guest Editors, members of the Editorial Advisory Board, Prof. Andrew Nafalski of the University of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia, and Prof. Sławomir Wiak of the Technical University of Łódź, Łódź, Poland. Readers will find a call for the articles at the WTE&TE site on the Internet.

This issue of the WTE&TE, Vol. 8, No.1, includes 20 fully peer-reviewed original articles, from authors representing eight countries worldwide. It should be pointed out that academics from Taiwan have contributed 10 of them, which constitutes half of the entire issue.

Our close collaboration with Taiwanese academics now extends over the last decade and we have witnessed an increased involvement of academics in Taiwan in undertaking an extensive range of research and development activities in engineering and technology education. Universities in Taiwan have established numerous postgraduate programmes under which many thousands of students proudly and enthusiastically pursue research projects leading to the award of Masters or doctorates. It is believed that this massive involvement of young men and women in higher and postgraduate education will result, in the near future, in tremendous achievements in the Taiwanese economy through inventions and innovation in technology, engineering, management and production processes. We should also mention here a special role of the *Association of Taiwan Engineering Education and Management* (ATEEM), based in Taichung, Taiwan, a partner institution of the WIETE, whose Founder and President, Professor David W.S. Tai, has been the instigator and promoter of many exciting activities and ventures carried out over the past decade in collaboration with the then UICEE and now the WIETE.

In thanking the authors for their contributions, I wish to express my hope that readers will find the articles included in this issue both informative and interesting, and that this publication will become an important source of information essential for their academic endeavour in engineering and technology education. Also, I would like to thank Dr Elena A. Danilova, Ms Dianne Q. Nguyen and Ms Krystyna Wareing for their assistance in preparing this issue for its publication and distribution.

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