



# UNESCO International Centre for Engineering Education



## Newsletter

Volume 10, Issue 1

March 2003

### From the Director

Every passing year, with much shock and regret, we can observe a gradual decline in the importance and relevance of academia in the mainstream of social, political and economic life in developed countries. The corporate world has captured the attention of the media, which publicise heavily the so-called *captains* of industry and business by portraying them as almost *little gods* of the modern world. Frequent disclosures of their salaries and bonuses awarded to them every year by their respective corporate boards make us all wonder about the meaning of the rewards for their work. At the same time, much can also be heard and read about heavy company losses and spectacular crashes or collapses of corporations. Yet the very CEOs of those companies are being rewarded with millions of dollars for their dubious performances.

Where do we stand in these modern societies as academics?

The truth is that most of the professors I talked to complain that they are being overloaded, denied of administrative and technical support, frustrated by the system and very much underpaid. As a result, the academic is often placed almost at the bottom of the list of professions in many countries.

As my distinguished colleagues know very well, in order to raise to the rank of a professor, one has to graduate with top honours, invest many years of hard labour and dedication to pass through the requirements of producing higher degrees, raising funds, conducting meaningful research, publishing research papers, conducting effective teaching/learning activities, supervising postgraduate students, and so on. This is so

much so that university managements often expect us to deliver virtual miracles. Meaningful results are expected to be achieved for meaningless remuneration - mere *pocket money* of an average captain of industry.

Another serious problem is that academia is ageing dramatically and there is no necessary new blood coming to the system! Bright university leavers hardly consider the academic career as an exciting and valuable option, as the status of a professor has been totally run down by our politicians. We should be really concerned about the future of academia, and I would like the *UICEE Global Family of Engineering Educators* to commence a serious debate about these issues.

### Monash Engineering Dean Retires



Retiring Dean of Engineering at Monash University, Prof. Michael L. Brisk, delivers his farewell address.

It is with regret that we must announce to readers that Prof. Michael Lewis Brisk has retired from his role as Dean of the Faculty of Engineering at Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, after eight years of excellent service in this position.

Prof. M.L. Brisk provided generous support to the UICEE, especially in its formative years. He has been seriously involved in engineering education, has published several interesting papers and attended numerous Conferences on engineering education organised by the UICEE.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to engineering education, Prof. Brisk was awarded the UICEE Silver Badge of Honour in 1997 at the *1st Asia-Pacific Forum on Engineering and Technology Education*, and the UICEE Gold Badge of Honour was bestowed on him during



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#### UICEE Partners



the 4<sup>th</sup> Baltic Region Seminar on Engineering Education held in Copenhagen, Denmark, in September 2000.

The UICEE Director, staff and students gratefully acknowledge this support and wish Prof. M.L. Brisk all the very best in his future endeavours.

The photo on the previous page shows Prof. M.L. Brisk delivering his farewell address at the Monash University Staff Club.

## New Partners

The UICEE Director visited Mumbai, India, at the end of January 2003 to finalise two Partnership agreements there. First, the UICEE Director visited the Maharashtra State Board of Technical Education (MSBTE), Mumbai, with Prof. Marika A. Vicziany, Director of the Monash Asia Institute (MAI) at Monash University, Melbourne, Australia. The Partnership agreement was signed with the MSBTE Director, Prof. C.Y. Mowade, with senior staff observing the signing.

The MSBTE is an autonomous board that administers and controls examinations of all engineering diploma and pharmacy courses in the State of Maharashtra. It also looks after the design and implementation of curricula in this field and advises the State Government on important educational policy matters.

Under the Agreement, it is proposed that a UICEE satellite centre be established, tentatively titled the Centre for Technical Teachers Training (CTTT), which will provide a focus for academic and research activities related to the work on engineering and technical education, as well as technical teachers' training, especially in the transfer of information on technical teachers' training to developing countries worldwide. This Partnership opens new horizons to engineering education at an international level for the MSBTE.

Later, the UICEE Director visited the Hyderabad (Sind) National Collegiate Board (H(S)NCB) in Mumbai, again accompanied by Prof. M.A. Vicziany. An agreement on Partnership was signed with Mr Ashok Advani, President of the H(S)NCB Board. Witnesses to this momentous event included Prof. Kranti Kumar, Principal of the Thadomal Shahani Engineering College



The photo shows the cordial exchange of agreement between Prof. C.Y. Mowade (r), Director of the MSBTE, and the UICEE Director (l).

(TSEC), and Prof. Vicziany, plus other local senior staff also attending.

It is envisaged that a satellite centre will soon be established named the Indian Centre for Engineering Education and Research (ICEER). Given that the H(S)NCB is a leader in the development of undergraduate engineering and technology education, the proposed satellite centre will provide a focus for academic and research activities related to the work on engineering and technical education in the *UICEE Global Network of Engineering Education*, and, in particular, on the

transfer of information concerning the methodology of undergraduate engineering education and training.

It should be noted that the H(S)NCB has been a pioneer in the field of higher education in India and oversees 22 educational institutions, which includes schools, degree and postgraduate colleges with over 7,000 teaching faculty and 40,000 students.

The first research project is a joint initiative of the UICEE and MAI under the project title of *Cultures and Technologies in Asia*. Prof. Vicziany (MAI) and Prof. Shirish Vichare (TSEC) are focusing on *slum improvement* taking Dharavi (in Mumbai) as the case study, which is the largest slum in Asia. The paper is targeted for joint presentation at the 4<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Forum on Engineering and Technology Education, to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, in mid-July 2003.

On 19 February 2003, the Instituto Tecnológico Y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey - *Tec de Monterrey*, Monterrey, Mexico, signed a Partnership Agreement with the UICEE. Prof. Finn Kjærdsdam, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Science at Aalborg University, Aalborg, Denmark, a Deputy Chairman of the UICEE Academic Advisory Committee, initiated this first Partnership in Central America and signed the agreement on behalf of the UICEE.

Monterrey Tec has been described as one of the most



The photo shows Mr A. Advani (r) with Prof. K. Kumar (l) and the UICEE Director (c) at the signing of Partnership with the H(S)NCB.

prominent education centres in Latin America. This will serve to expand the UICEE's presence in the Americas and augment the wealth of experience and international perspectives that have become the hallmark of the *UICEE's Global Family of Engineering Educators*.

Under the Agreement, a Centre for Engineering Education in Latin America (CEELA) will be established at the

Monterrey Tec in due course.

The photo shows Prof. Kjærdsdam (l), Dr Fernando J. Jaimes, Dean of the ITESM Campus Monterrey (c), and Rector of Campus Monterrey Dr Alberto Bustani Adem (r).



The photo shows (l-r): Prof. F. Kjærdsdam, Dr F.J. Jaimes and Rector, Dr A. Bustani Adem during the signing ceremony on Partnership at Monterrey Tec, Monterrey, Mexico. (Photo © Egon Moesby)

Higher Education in the Russian Federation. The delegation included nine Rectors (Presidents) of Russian technical universities from various regions in Russia.

Copies of the volume of Conference Proceedings are now available for purchase from the UICEE, and cover a rich diversity of papers, demonstrated in the 71 collected papers taken from the Conference.

## 6<sup>th</sup> UICEE Annual Conference

A highly successful 6<sup>th</sup> UICEE Annual Conference on Engineering Education was held in Cairns, Australia, between 10 and 14 February 2003. The Conference theme of *Educating for the Right Environment* was chosen to identify and present best projects, programmes and examples relevant to the main theme and to address issues of concern to the process of education for both the engineering and physical environments and to discuss the impact on the status and quality of global engineering education.

The 6<sup>th</sup> UICEE Annual Conference was also an academic activity that, essentially, commenced the 10<sup>th</sup> year of operation for the UICEE, with others still to follow in 2003.

The Conference was opened by the Vice-Chancellor and President of Monash University, Prof. Peter LeP. Darvall, who is also Chairman of the UICEE's Academic Advisory Committee.

The Conference facilitated an excellent level of interaction, communication and networking between delegates with new friends, collaborations and associations developed between UICEE Partners, members and general delegates.

The final day permitted a field excursion to a giant pontoon on the edge of the Great Barrier Reef for some snorkelling and viewing of the amazingly beautiful coral formations and fascinating variations of colourful fish, an environment we want to preserve for future generations.

The Conference saw the participation of a large delegation of senior academics from Russia and, in particular, a group of delegate members from the Russian Association of Engineering Universities (RAEU), under the leadership of Prof. Vassiliy M. Zhurakovsky, a former Vice-Minister of the Ministry of

## Partners Meeting

The 6<sup>th</sup> UICEE Annual Conference provided the venue for the Partners Meeting. In an informal setting, UICEE Partners representatives and invited guests were courteously asked to comment and discuss on their institution's activities, as well as the UICEE's.

The day prior included a short and informal Partners' discussion between representatives from institutions who were unable to attend the actual Partners dinner.

## Badges of Honour

The UICEE Director was indeed pleased to award four Silver Badges of Honour on the occasion of the 6<sup>th</sup> UICEE Annual Conference on Engineering Education. These awards are given to particular engineering educators to recognise their ...*distinguished contributions to engineering education, outstanding achievements in the globalisation of engineering education through the activities of the Centre, and, in particular, for remarkable service to the UICEE.*

The recipients of these awards were: Prof. Marika A. Vicziany, Director of the Monash Asia Institute (MAI), Monash University, Melbourne, Australia; Prof. Silas Lwakabamba, Rector of the Kigali Institute of Science, Technology and Management (KIST), Kigali, Rwanda; Prof. Nikos J. Mourtos from San José State University, San José, USA; and Mr Doug Magin of the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia.



The photo shows Prof. S. Lwakabamba receiving the UICEE's Silver Badge of Honour from the UICEE Director.

These awards were presented during the Conference Banquet held at the Pacific International Hotel, Cairns, Australia, during which a captivating occasional address was given by Prof. Marika A. Vicziany from the MAI.

## Best Paper Awards

Various exceptional papers were presented at the 6<sup>th</sup> UICEE Annual Conference on Engineering Education, and participants were asked to select the top papers included in the Proceedings and presented at the Conference to receive the UICEE best paper awards.

Two papers received the Diamond award (1<sup>st</sup> grade); the first went to M.D. Northwood (St Peter's Hospital, Hamilton, Canada), D.O. Northwood (University of Windsor, Windsor, Canada) and M.G. Northwood (Human Resources Consultant, Amherstburg, Canada) for their opening address on *Problem-Based Learning (PBL): from the health sciences to engineering to value-added in the workplace*.

The second Diamond award (1<sup>st</sup> grade) was bestowed upon C.M. Anson, L.E. Bernhold, C. Crossland, J. Spurlin, M. McDermott and S. Weiss (North Carolina State University, Raleigh, USA) for their interesting paper called *Empowerment to learn in engineering: preparation for an urgently-needed paradigm shift*.

As there were two papers receiving equal first place, there was no Platinum award given this time.

The Gold award (3<sup>rd</sup> grade) was presented to C. Savander-Ranne, (Helsinki Polytechnic, Helsinki, Finland) for her paper called *Improving the conceptual understanding of engineering students*.

The Silver award (4<sup>th</sup> grade) went to P.J. Lawrence (Monash University, Melbourne, Australia) for his paper called *The*



Prof. M.A. Vicziany delivering an occasional address during the 6<sup>th</sup> UICEE Annual Conference Banquet.

*multiple roles of Discrete Event Simulation in the workplace.*

The Bronze award (5<sup>th</sup> grade) was accorded to S. Kolari (Tampere Polytechnic, Tampere, Finland) for his paper called *Visualisation as a tool for teaching and learning*.

The UICEE congratulates the awardees for their impressive efforts. It is envisaged that these papers will be expanded and published in a future issue of the *Global Journal of Engineering Education*.

## Director's Choice Awards

The UICEE Director chose this first conference event of the UICEE's tenth year of operations to unveil the Director's Choice Awards, which recognise those papers included in the Proceedings and presented at the 6<sup>th</sup> UICEE Annual Conference on Engineering Education that deserve additional recognition, advance the globalisation of engineering education, and generate discussions beyond the Conference forum. Five equal awards were presented to the papers listed below.

G.R. Burns from University of Glasgow, Glasgow, Scotland, UK, and C.U. Chisholm from Glasgow Caledonian University, Glasgow, Scotland, UK, for their paper titled *An assessment of how Work-Based Learning methodologies may contribute to the development of engineering education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*.

R.A. Davis and G.D. Oliver from the University of Technology Jamaica, Kingston, Jamaica, for their perceptive paper called *Engineering education in a small state in the context of a global agenda*.

J.A. Melkert from HS Delft - Delft University of Technology, Delft, the Netherlands, for his paper on *Sustainable development as an integral part of the design and synthesis exercise in aerospace*



Recipients of the UICEE's Best Paper Awards (l-r): Prof. C.M. Anson, Dr C. Savander-Ranne, Dr P.J. Lawrence, Dr S. Kolari, Ms M.D. Northwood, Mrs M.G. Northwood and Prof. D.O. Northwood.

*engineering: a case study – the design of a high altitude, long endurance uninhabited solar powered aircraft.*

E. Fromm of Drexel University, Philadelphia, for his insightful paper called *Innovations that have changed the engineering educational environment.*

A.S. Abdullah from University of Industry, Selangor, Shah Alam, Malaysia, for his paper entitled *Learning assessment of the effectiveness of teaching delivery in manufacturing engineering education.*

The authors of these five excellent papers have been invited to revise and expand their papers for potential inclusion in a forthcoming issue of the *Global Journal of Engineering Education* (GJEE).

The photo shows Prof. Eli Fromm accepting his award from the UICEE Director.

## New Deputy Chairmen

With the continuous expansion of the UICEE Global Network of Partner Institutions, Chairman of the UICEE Academic Advisory Committee (AAC), Prof. Peter LeP. Darvall, in consultation with the UICEE Director, Prof. Zenon J. Pudlowski, appointed four new Deputy Chairmen of the UICEE AAC in early March.

The appointees are: Prof. Colin U. Chisholm, Dean of Development and Director of the Scottish Centre for Work-Based Learning at Glasgow Caledonian University, Glasgow, Scotland, UK; Prof. Norbert Grünwald, Rector of Hochschule Wismar – University of Technology, Business and Design, Wismar, Germany, and Co-Director of the Gottlob Frege Centre for Engineering Science and Design based there; Prof. Silas Lwakabamba, Rector of the Kigali Institute of Science, Technology and Management, Kigali, Rwanda, and a Member of the UNESCO Board; and Prof. Yuri P. Pokholkov, Rector of the Tomsk Polytechnic University, Tomsk, Russia, and President of the Russian Association for Engineering Education (RAEE).

Together with Prof. Finn Kjærdsdam, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Science at Aalborg University, Aalborg, Denmark, appointed last year, this will create a dynamic team of five Deputy Chairmen of the UICEE AAC, consisting of some of the most senior academic members of the UICEE.

It is envisaged that the Deputy Chairmen will bring their vast experience to the UICEE AAC, thereby enriching the academic and geographic representation of the Executive of the UICEE AAC. It is anticipated that further appointments of Deputy Chairmen will be made in the future as the

UICEE expands its pool of Partners so that more international expertise would be brought to the work of the Committee. We wish to congratulate the four colleagues on their appointment as Deputy Chairmen of the UICEE AAC.

## GJEE

The *Global Journal of Engineering Education* (GJEE), Vol.6, No.3, was the third Special Edition published so far that centred on the *German Network of Engineering Education*. By being published entirely in the German language, it demonstrates the UICEE's commitment to the diverse dissemination of information to overcome the international borders generated by different languages.

This Special Edition covered 12 articles overall; these came primarily from Germany, with others from Romania and Poland. The issue looked at various aspects pertinent to engineering education.

Prof. Norbert Grünwald, Rector of Hochschule Wismar, Wismar, Germany, is Guest Editor of this issue.

Readers will be interested to know that the next issue of the GJEE, Vol.7, No.1, will focus on expanded papers that showcase the achievements of the highly successful 3<sup>rd</sup> *Global Congress on Engineering Education*, held in Glasgow, Scotland, UK, in June-July 2002.

The Guest Editor of this issue is Prof. C.U. Chisholm, Director of the Scottish

Centre for Work-Based Learning (SCWBL), the UICEE satellite centre at the Glasgow Caledonian University, Glasgow, Scotland, UK. Prof. Chisholm is also the former Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology, and is presently Dean of Development at the GCU.

## New Doctors in Finland

The UICEE is delighted to announce that two of its individual members, Dr Carina Savander-Ranne (Helsinki Polytechnic, Helsinki, Finland) and Dr Samuli Kolari (Tampere Polytechnic, Tampere, Finland), have completed their Doctor of Technology (research) degrees. This is particularly special as the authors chose to publish the articles and papers that constituted their research theses with the UICEE through various international conference proceedings and journals, such as the *Global Journal of Engineering Education* (award papers) and the *World Transactions on Engineering and Technology Education*. The UICEE congratulates the two new Finnish Doctors and looks forward to further publishing of their research material.



The photo shows Prof. E. Fromm (r) collecting his award from the UICEE Director (l) at the 6<sup>th</sup> UICEE Annual Conference.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Forum

Work is in full progress for the 4<sup>th</sup> *Asia-Pacific Forum on Engineering and Technology Education*, to be held at the Menam Riverside Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand, between 16 and 19 July 2003, with King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT), Bangkok, a UICEE Partner institution, as the co-sponsor.

It is envisaged that the Forum will address issues of importance regarding engineering and technology education in Asia and beyond.

Full papers are currently coming in with over 70 abstracts already received. The UICEE can still accept late paper submissions as they come in.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Baltic Seminar

Preparations are fully underway for the 7<sup>th</sup> *Baltic Seminar on Engineering Education*, to be held in St Petersburg, Russia, from 4 to 6 September 2003.

This promises to be a spectacular event as the Seminar coincides with this beautiful city's 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its foundation by Peter the Great.

This Seminar is one of the events commemorating this Anniversary and is expected to attract a lot of attention, both locally and internationally.

Abstracts continue to come in and UICEE members, past UICEE conference delegates and those considering attending a UICEE conference for the first time are encouraged to attend to experience the hospitality and beauty of this wonderful city on the north-east Baltic coast.

## World Transactions

The deadline of **31 March 2003** for the next issue of the UICEE's *World Transactions on Engineering and Technology Education* (WTE&TE), Vol.2, No.1, looms ever closer. Many original article submissions have already been received from all around the world, defining the World Transactions as a truly global enterprise.

It should be pointed out that the first volume of the WTE&TE included 52 papers from 24 countries of the world, which presented a wide range of topics, issues and ideas concerning engineering and technology education.

UICEE members are encouraged to take up this oppor-

tunity and publish their works in the *World Transactions*. The electronic kit for authors can be obtained on request from Mr Marc Riemer of the UICEE on: marc.riemer@eng.monash.edu.au.

Further information can also be found on the UICEE's Web site (see address at bottom).

## Polish Students in Wismar

After five months of hard work, five students from the Higher Professional State School, Tarnów, Poland, a Supporter Member of the UICEE, finished their final year thesis in the Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Departments at Hochschule Wismar. Each student received dual supervision from Poland and Germany. The last step of the thesis was a presentation and defence of their work in English in front of their supervisors from Wismar and Tarnów, the latter spending one week at Hochschule

Wismar (HSW). The students received excellent results with their supervisors giving an overall mark of *very good* with regard to the results, presentation and answers to questions.

The photo shows students and supervisors, along with the Rector of HSW, Prof. Norbert Grünwald (pictured at the head of the table with Prof. Dieter Schott, Co-Director of the Gottlob Frege Centre



The photo shows the toasting of the excellent performance of the Polish students at Hochschule Wismar, Wismar, Germany.

for Engineering Science and Design, the satellite centre of the UICEE at HSW) celebrating the excellent results.

In 2002, within the framework of an International Quality Network, the Gottlob Frege Centre invited from abroad and hosted eight guest professors, 25 scientific staff, 13 students with a semester grant and four students with a monthly grant.

In 2003, the Gottlob Frege Centre will host students and staff from other Partner institutions of the UICEE network, and those are cordially invited to express their interest.

## 2002 Annual Report

The Annual Report of the UICEE for 2002 is now available on the UICEE Web site under *Reports*. This details highlights of the past year for the UICEE, including the spectacular rise in institutional partnerships that has reinforced the so-called *UICEE Family of Engineering Educators*, as well as listing the various UICEE publications for 2002 plus the research activities undertaken by UICEE staff and students last year.

## Book by CEM

An elegantly produced hardbound book titled *Step-by-Step Analysis of Induction Machines Allowing for Slotting* by Prof. Krzysztof Kluszczyński and his collaborator, Dr Dariusz Spałek, both of the Silesian University of Technology (SUT), Gliwice, Poland, has been published under the auspices of the Electrical Engineering Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the Polish Society for Theoretical and Applied Electrical Engineering.

As one of the reviewers pointed out, *the book is an attempt to use the best of both worlds: circuit-analysis and field-analysis based methods - and is a sort of compromise between accuracy and computation speed.*

Also, a CD with a computer simulation program for educational purposes is included with the book.

It should be mentioned at this point that Prof. Kluszczyński is the Director of the Centre for Education in Mechatronics (CEM), the satellite centre of the UICEE based at the SUT.

The UICEE congratulates Prof. Kluszczyński and his collaborator on this achievement.

For a small price, the book can be obtained from Prof. Kluszczyński by contacting him directly via e-mail at: [k\\_kl@kmiue.elekt.polsl.gliwice.pl](mailto:k_kl@kmiue.elekt.polsl.gliwice.pl)



The photo shows Prof. A.V. Valiulis (l) presenting the congratulatory diploma and medal to the UICEE Director (r).

the position of Rector at the DTU.

As Rector of the DTU, Prof. H.P. Jensen was a champion of international engineering education and was the Chairman of the UNESCO International Committee on Engineering Education (ICEE) before it was axed in January 2000. Under his rectorship, the DTU's Centre for Educational Development became a satellite centre of the UICEE, with its Director, Prof. Palle Sørensen, taking an active part in UICEE conferences and affairs. Indeed, during that time, the DTU made a considerable impact on the global affairs of engineering and technology education.

It is still hoped that the DTU, under different circumstances, will resume its Partnership.

## Greetings from VGTU

During the gala Conference Banquet of the 6<sup>th</sup> UICEE Conference on Engineering Education, held recently in Cairns, Australia, Prof. Algirdas V. Valiulis, Vice-Rector of the Vilnius Gediminas University, Vilnius, Lithuania, a UICEE Supporter Member, presented the UICEE Director with a *Congratulations Diploma* and a beautiful accompanying medal.

The Diploma was a resolution of the University Senate of the VGTU on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UICEE. The photo shows

Prof. Valiulis (l) presenting the medal to the proud awardee, Prof. Z.J. Pudlowski.

## Danish Visitor

On 12 March 2003, Prof. Stig Enemark visited the UICEE in order to discuss current collaborative issues with the UICEE Director. Prof. Enemark is presently in Australia on an invitation from another university. He is a Vice-Director of the UICEE Centre for Problem-Based Learning, a satellite centre of the UICEE, at Aalborg University, Aalborg, Denmark.

Prof. Enemark is a world authority on spatial planning systems and land surveying and is also particularly interested in the promotion of engineering education on a global basis.

## Farewell to DTU

It is with regret that we inform our readers that the Technical University of Denmark (DTU), Copenhagen, Denmark, has terminated the Partnership Agreement with the UICEE, effective on 31 December 2002. This decision resulted from the departure of Prof. Hans Peter Jensen from

## Satellite Conferences

We are delighted by the progress in research and activities of the UICEE satellite centres. In particular, several regional satellite centres have decided to commence their conference activities in order to activate academic networks in engineering and technology education in their respective regions.

Another objective of such conferences is to cultivate participation from international academics external to the region in order to foster an exchange of information and establish collaborative links.

The UICEE, as principal co-sponsor of these meetings, cordially invites members and associates to take the opportunity and attend these important gatherings of engineering and technology educators.

Call for Papers brochures for the three satellite conferences listed on the following page can be found at the UICEE Web site under *Conferences and Meetings*.

## Algiers

The University of Science and Technology *Houari Boumediene*, Algiers, Algeria, a Partner institution of the UICEE, along with its UICEE satellite centre, the North Africa Centre for Engineering and Technology Education (NACETE), has established and will host the *1<sup>st</sup> North African Region Seminar on Engineering and Technology Education*, to be held from 18-20 May 2003, under the leadership of Prof. Khedidja Allia, Director of the NACETE.

The Seminar will cover various important and relevant themes, with special note being placed on the needs of industry in North African countries. Arabic, English and French will be the official languages of this Seminar at the University, which is located not far from downtown Algiers and the airport.

Algiers is a beautiful and historical city that offers sunny, panoramic views and is positioned as a bridge between Europe and Africa, while also being accessible to other continents via a short plane trip.

## Sibiu

The Balkan Region Centre for Engineering Education (BRCEE) is the UICEE satellite centre at the *Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu*, Sibiu, Romania, another UICEE Partner university, which will be holding the *2<sup>nd</sup> Balkan Region Conference on Engineering Education* between 16 and 19 September 2003. *Bridges for Cooperation in Engineering Education* is the designated theme for this Conference. The University Vice-Rector and Centre's Director, Prof. Constantin Oprean, will chair the Conference.

It should also be noted that a long tradition of higher education in Sibiu dates back to the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. The city is also an important tourist centre in Romania and Central Europe.

## Changhua

The *1<sup>st</sup> North-East Asia International Conference on Engineering and Technical Education* will be held between 10 and 13 November 2003 in Changhua, Taiwan, and hosted by the National Changhua University of Education (NCUE), Changhua, and its UICEE satellite centre, the North-East Asia Centre for Technology & Vocational Education (NEACTVE). Prof. David W.S. Tai, Dean of the College of Technology at the NCUE, is Conference General Chairman.

The nominated theme for this Conference is *The Status and Prospects of Engineering and Technology Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, and will serve to review and investigate the current and future status of engineering education within the framework of intensifying internationalisation and its emphasis on networks.

## Innovation Conference

Tomsk Polytechnic University (TPU), Tomsk, Russia, a Partner institution of the UICEE, together with the Russian Ministry of Education, the Russian Association for Engineering Education (RAEE), an all-Russian public organisation, the Foundation for International Accreditation and Certification Assistance (FIACA) in the area of education and high technologies, conducted the *Innovation University and Innovation Education Conference* on 5 March 2003.

The Conference discussed: a concept of academic innovation university; innovation in engineering education; elite engineering education; retaining the academic basis of the university and the development of basic research and innovation activities; and innovation in corporate culture and the development of a competitive environment.

Officials of the universities based in Tomsk, academic institutes of the Siberian Division of the Russian Academy of Sciences, branch institutes, representatives from the RAEE and the TPU Alumni Association took

part in the Conference, and also teachers and research fellows from the TPU, including those from TPU research institutes. In all, 178 persons attended the Conference, with representatives from Moscow, Barnaul and Komsomolsk-on-the-Amur.

In conclusion, the following was decided: to develop a standard design of the academic innovative university organisation; to develop the TPU as an academic innovative university; to develop a system of elite engineering education at the TPU and, as an experiment, to start its implementation on 1 September 2003; to develop a basis for carrying out basic and applied research, training top specialists and elite graduates in cooperation with research institutes from the Russian Academy of Sciences and universities; to start the experiment on the use of innovative engineering education techniques at a number of the TPU Faculties; to form a corporate culture that corresponds to the mission of an academic innovative university. Conference participants noted the relevance and usefulness of this Conference.

## 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations

The 6<sup>th</sup> UICEE Annual Conference in Cairns bore witness to 60<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations of several distinguished and learned international academics. The photo shows those proud people whose impressive and vaunted academic and technical experience is matched by their age on the special occasion of turning 60 this year, with a younger version (50) squeezing in the middle.



Pictured are (l-r): Prof. A.V. Valiulis, Prof. D. Jaume, Prof. N. Grünwald, Prof. Z.J. Pudlowski, and Prof. D.O. Northwood.