



UNESCO International Centre
for
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Newsletter

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From the Director

7 July 2006 saw the completion of 25 years of my continuous service to Australian academia. Slightly over three months after my arrival in Australia, I was appointed a tutor in the then School of Electrical Engineering at the University of Sydney on 7 July 1981. This period has been divided to two stages: the first 12.5 years being spent at the University of Sydney, and the other 12.5 years at Monash University. This special occasion evokes some emotions, brings back many memories and gives the opportunity to reflect on those years.

My professional life commenced very early, that is in September 1964, when I still was an undergraduate student in the Faculty of Electrical Engineering at the University of Mining & Metallurgy in Kraków, Poland. Most of these 42 years were spent in academic institutions, some very old, some relatively new, some sandstone universities, some made out of gyprock, aluminium and glass! Such diversity in age and infrastructure also brought to play a significant diversity of philosophy, mentality and culture of the human environment within which I had, and still have, to exist and function.

Many changes occurred in academic establishments over this period of time, with the most striking being the rapid development of new technologies, as well as advancements in information technologies and communication. On the human side, the most prevailing change has been the gradual diminution of the status and role of the professor in academia and the rampant expansion of bureaucracy. No more is the leadership of the professor important; no more the professor runs the university, but a variety of managers. This is, obviously, a subject for a separate

article. On the bright side, many university leaders have realised the importance of the student and the fact that the university's role is to educate a new generation of highly specialised personnel, who, on their graduation, can be injected successfully to the workforce.

Nevertheless, against all these odds, there are many highly skilled, hard working and dedicated individuals in academia, who can educate, research, publish, generate funds; devise, pursue and promote new ideas and developments; and who still strongly believe in their mission to serve the local and international communities.

I have been, indeed, very lucky and privileged to encounter many such exceptional academic colleagues in my long professional life. Hence, on this important occasion, I would like to take this opportunity to thank them from the bottom of my heart for their support, guidance, cooperation and friendship, so vital for the survival in this highly complicated world.



The picture shows the Honourable Jerry Hultin, JD, President of the Polytechnic University, opening the 5th Global Congress.

5th Global Congress

Summertime New York and the Polytechnic University in Brooklyn, NY, USA, provided an excellent setting for the 5th Global Congress on Engineering Education, which was held there between 17 and 21 July 2006. The Congress was inaugurated by the Congress Patron, the

Honourable Jerry Hultin, JD, President of the Polytechnic University (pictured on this page). The University is a multi-faculty academic institution that offers BS, MS and PhD degrees in the engineering, science and management fields. It is well known locally and internationally as *Brooklyn Poly*. This year, the Poly celebrates the 150th anniversary of its foundation and the Congress was



UICEE Partners



one of the activities dedicated to this important event. Therefore, it was a special occasion for the UICEE, the Congress sponsor and organiser, as well as for the Poly, the host, principal co-sponsor and co-organiser of this Congress, and for the many local and international colleagues who have been collaborating with us to promote the UICEE and foster the idea of global cooperation.

The Congress was staged at the Polytechnic University because the Poly is particularly concerned about the status, role and quality of engineering education, and the globalisation of engineering and technology education, and it has decided to become a Partner institution of the UICEE in order to work with the entire UICEE global network of engineering education. The paramount objective of this gathering was to consider and debate the importance and the future of engineering education in a time of changing societal needs, within a framework of increasing globalisation of engineering and technology education.

The delegates included many distinguished academic leaders from close to 30 countries worldwide, who presented their achievements in over 60 excellent addresses. These presentations created the foundation for excellent debates, which provided the participants with comprehensive information on most recent developments and advancements in engineering education on a worldwide basis. It should be mentioned that apart from the host institution, *Lucian Blaga* University of Sibiu, Sibiu, Romania, under the leadership of its Rector, Prof. Constantin Oprean, provided the largest delegation to the Congress from a single academic institution.

One of the highlights of the Congress included a special panel discussion devised, staged and moderated by President Hultin, which was called *Innovative Engineering Education Ideas*. The three panellists, specialists in education and the management of education institutions in the USA, included Dr Deborah Devegian, Mr Gregory Gunn and Mr Bruce Niswander. The top picture shows the panellist (l-r) Mr G. Gunn, Dr D. Devegian and Mr B.



The photo shows (l-r): Mr G. Gunn, Dr D. Devegian and Mr B. Niswander at the special panel discussion.

without which this event would have not been possible. Special gratitude is directed to the Congress Honorary Chairman, Professor Harold Sjursen, Associate Provost for International Studies at the Poly and his team for their valuable support and help provided to the organisation of this Congress.

On the occasion of the Congress Gala Banquet of the 5th Global Congress on Engineering Education, held on Thursday, 20 July, the UICEE Director was proud to present one Gold and two Silver UICEE Badges of Honour for ...*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*. Firstly, Prof. Khedidja Allia received the prestigious Gold Badge of Honour, while Prof. Harold P. Sjursen from the Polytechnic University, New York, and Dr Stefan Kluj from Gdynia Maritime University, Gdynia, Poland, were each accorded the Silver Badge of Honour. The bottom



The photo shows the three Badge of Honour awardees: (seated) Prof. K. Allia, (standing l-r): Prof. H.P. Sjursen and Dr S. Kluj.

Niswander. It should be pointed out that the Congress programme was structured so that, as well as having a strong academic programme, it also provided participants, guests and accompanying persons with an exciting social programme in order to explore New York and its surroundings.

The UICEE, as well as Congress participants and guests, are grateful to the University for its logistic and financial support provided,

photo shows the three proud awardees: (seated) Prof. K. Allia, (standing l-r): Prof. H.P. Sjursen and Dr S. Kluj.

A handsome hardbound volume of Proceedings has been produced showcasing the papers presented at the Congress, representing 27 countries. More details can be found on the UICEE Web site.

Best Paper Awards

As with previous UICEE-run conferences, participants at the 5th Global Congress had the opportunity to cast their personal

votes regarding those papers presented at the Congress that they considered to be the most outstanding. Three best paper awards were announced during the Closing Ceremony of the Congress.

The UICEE Diamond (First Place) Best Paper Award was conferred on P. Vohra, R. Kasuba & D.P. Vohra of Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, USA, for their keynote address titled *An undergraduate curriculum with a Global Engineering Emphasis (GEE)*.

The UICEE Platinum Paper Award was distributed to two other papers that received equal next highest frequency of votes, with both papers coming from the Congress host, the Polytechnic University. H.P. Sjursen was accorded an award for his opening address called *The role of a Centre for Liberal Arts in Engineering Education (CLAEE): the engineer of 2020*. C. Skelton was the other recipient for his paper entitled *Generation Beta: do cyborg students write electronic philosophy?*

It is anticipated that expanded and revised versions of these award papers will be included in a forthcoming issue of the UICEE's *Global Journal of Engineering Education*. Staff, students and associates congratulate these awardees for their sterling efforts and noteworthy contributions.

European Tour

From May to early June 2006, the UICEE Director travelled around Central Europe engaged in various important matters relating to the UICEE network and its activities, as well as identifying opportunities for potential future international collaboration.

Germany

The UICEE Director's German leg of his European tour began in Wiesbaden on 6 May 2006 with a meeting with Mr Detlev E. Jansen, a Monash University PhD external student, concerning his research progress and publications.

Two days later, the UICEE Director had a working meeting with Prof. Norbert Grünwald, Rector of Hochschule Wismar –



The photo shows (l-r) Prof. N. Grünwald, Mrs R. Krause, Prof. D. Schott and the UICEE Director during discussions at the UICEE-EHQ.

University of Technology, Business and Design (HSW), Wismar, Germany, and a Vice-Chairman of the UICEE Academic Advisory Committee, and Mrs Regina Krause at the UICEE European Headquarters (UICEE-EHQ). Discussions covered the existing activities of the UICEE-EHQ and future projects to be undertaken by the UICEE-EHQ.

The next day entailed a working meeting with Prof. Norbert Grünwald and Prof. Dieter Schott, both

Co-Directors of the *Gottlob Frege Centre for Engineering Science and Design (GFC)*, a satellite centre of the UICEE, plus Mrs Regina Krause at the UICEE-EHQ. The talks focused on the existing activities of the UICEE and future projects to be undertaken by both the Frege Centre and the UICEE-EHQ.

The top photo shows (l-r) Prof. N. Grünwald, Mrs R. Krause, Prof. D. Schott and the UICEE Director engaged in fruitful discussions.

Further, the UICEE Director also had a working session with Prof. Norbert Grünwald, discussing the existing activities of the UICEE and future collaboration between the UICEE and Hochschule Wismar. This included a meeting with Dr Hans Plagemann, a special advisor to the Rector, and the programme of his visit to the UICEE in Melbourne in October/November this year.

Belgium

On 11 May 2006, a special meeting was held in the German Information Office in Brussels, Belgium, with representatives of the European Commission (Directorate of Education) and representatives of various German organisations. This involved the presentation of

the UICEE, UICEE-EHQ and the Frege Centre, their activities and achievements, as well as the exchange of information on existing European Union (EU) programmes and discussions on potential future applications for grants.

The bottom photo shows (l-r) Mrs Marion Arndt, who is responsible for EU research from the Ministry of Research and Culture of Mecklenburg Western Pomerania, with Mrs Regina Krause, Coordinator of the UICEE-EHQ, perusing an issue of the *Global Journal of Engineering Education*.



The photo shows (l-r): Mrs M. Arndt and Mrs R. Krause with a recent issue of the UICEE's *Global Journal of Engineering Education*.

Poland - Szczecin

The UICEE Director arrived in Szczecin in mid-May to inspect the site and provisions for the forthcoming *10th Baltic Region Seminar on Engineering Education*, to be held there between 4 and 6 September 2006. This included venues for Seminar activities and functions, such as Szczecin Castle.

The UICEE Director also visited the University of Szczecin, a principal co-sponsor of the 10th Baltic Seminar, and featured a working session with Dr Jacek Batóg of the Faculty of Economic Sciences and Management, which provides the venue for the Seminar. Meetings were also held with Prof. Edward Urbańczyk, Dean of the Faculty, and Prof. Waldemar Tarczyński, Rector of the University of Szczecin.

Poland - Kraków

From 22-26 May 2006, the UICEE Director visited the University of Mining and Metallurgy (UM&M) in Kraków, in particular its Department of Electrotechnics. Discussions were held with the Head of the Department, Prof. Stanisław Mitkowski, on research collaboration and future joint activities, including the possibility of developing partnership with the UICEE and the establishment of a UICEE satellite centre within the Department, tentatively called the *Central European Centre for Engineering Education* (CECEE). Meetings were also held with other senior University members, notably the University Rector, Prof. Antoni Tajduś, and the University Vice-Rector, Prof. Jerzy Lis. The top picture shows (l-r) Prof. S.A. Mitkowski, the UICEE Director, Prof. A. Tajduś and Prof. J. Lis in a light moment during their discussions.

On 25 May 2006, the UICEE Director had honorary participation in an annual meeting of the Board of the University Alumnae Association, where he was delighted to receive a commemorative medallion of



The picture shows (l-r) Prof. S.A. Mitkowski, the UICEE Director, Prof. A. Tajduś and Prof. J. Lis during their cordial discussions.

the 60th Anniversary of the Association, presented for his special achievements in engineering education. The bottom photo shows (l-r) the UICEE Director accepting the medallion from Prof. A. Tajduś and Prof. S.A. Mitkowski, President of the Association.

Poland - Katowice

While in Kraków, the UICEE Director paid a

brief visit to Silesian University of Technology, Katowice campus, where he met several key academics of the Faculty of Materials Engineering & Metallurgy (FME&M) and the Faculty of Transportation (FT), including the Dean of the FME&M, Prof. Leszek Blacha.

As with every visit, there were cordial discussions held on matters of common interest in engineering education, including plans for future joint activities. We were, indeed, very lucky to recruit the former Dean of the FME&M, Prof. Czesław Sajdak, to join the team of UICEE international referees.

Hungary

At the end of May, the UICEE Director had working sessions with Ms Karolina Owczynik, based in Jaszbereny, Hungary, a postgraduate student of Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary, a potential postgraduate research student, who might attend and be supervised at the UICEE at Monash University.

The discussion covered the research proposal, being currently developed, and other issues related to this matter, plus work on the formulation of a research proposal, research methodology, hypotheses and research questions.

The two then travelled to Budapest to attend a meeting with Prof. Norbert Kis, Vice-Rector of Corvinus University of Budapest. Discussions included the issue of potential cooperation between the University and the UICEE, as well as potential membership of the University within the UICEE network. A number of issues of common interest, including



The photo shows (l-r) the UICEE Director receiving his special medallion from Prof. A. Tajduś and Prof. S.A. Mitkowski.

potential future collaborative ventures, such as the joint organisation of an international conference on engineering education in Hungary, were raised and discussed during the meeting.

ILG-EE Meeting

The 18th Annual General Meeting of the International Liaison Group on Engineering Education (ILG-EE) was held at the Polytechnic University, New York, USA, during the 5th Global Congress on Wednesday, 19 July. The UICEE Director, Prof. Zenon J. Pudlowski, was elected the new Chairman of the ILG-EE, thereby keeping the Chairmanship of the ILG-EE at Monash University. In this role, he succeeded the former Vice-Chancellor of Monash University, Prof. Emeritus Peter LeP. Darvall. Ms Dianne Q. Nguyen, also of the UICEE, was elected as the new Treasurer. The Vice-Chairmen elected were Prof. Emeritus Colin U. Chisholm of Glasgow Caledonian University in Glasgow, Scotland, UK; Prof. Norbert Grünwald from Hochschule Wismar in Wismar, Germany; and Prof. Derek O. Northwood from the University of Windsor in Windsor, Canada. A/Prof. Kevin Rochford of the University of Cape Town, Rondebosch, South Africa, was elected as the new ILG-EE Secretary.

New Partners

The East China University of Science and Technology (ECUST), based in Shanghai, People's Republic of China, signed a Memorandum of Agreement on partnership in the second quarter of 2006. This built upon a fruitful visit by an ECUST delegation in late November last year.

The delegation, which was led by Prof. Yulu Ma, Vice-President of the ECUST, included Prof. Yongdi Liu, Dean of the Faculty of Resources and Environmental Engineering, A/Prof. Huifeng Wang, Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Information Science and Technology, and



The top photo shows (l-r) Mr X. Ye, the UICEE Director, Prof. Y. Ma, Prof. Y. Liu and A/Prof. H. Wang during the ECUST's November visit to the Centre.

Mr Xiaosong Ye, Director of the International Cooperation and Exchange Office.

This Agreement promises increasing and continuing collaboration in international engineering education, including the staging of the 10th UICEE Annual Conference on Engineering Education in March next year.

The top photo shows (l-r) Mr X. Ye, the UICEE Director, Prof. Y. Ma, Prof. Y. Liu and A/Prof. H. Wang during the November visit to the Centre.

The UICEE is also delighted to announce the return of Anna University in

Chennai, India, as a Partner institutional member of the UICEE. On 7 April 2006, the Vice-Chancellor of Anna University, Prof. Doraiswamy Viswanathan and Dr R. Jayavel, Director of the Research Centre for Nanoscience and Technology at Anna University, visited the UICEE to discuss the possibility of reinstating Anna University as a Partner institution of the UICEE and potential future collaboration. Both parties decided to sign a new Agreement on Partnership, with the signing taking place on the day.

The bottom photo shows the exchange of the new agreement between the UICEE Director and the Vice-Chancellor of Anna University, Prof. D. Viswanathan (l-r).

Special Edition of the GJEE

A Special Edition of the *Global Journal of Engineering Education* (GJEE), Vol.10, No.1, entitled *The UICEE and its Pillars in Engineering Education*, has been circulated to members and marks

the tenth year of publication of this flagship journal. This Edition includes 11 highly informative papers concerning various key members of the UICEE network and showcases their research and academic achievements.

It should be noted that the GJEE is the world's only journal dedicated to engineering education available on the Internet free of charge, along with the *World Transactions on Engineering and Technology Education* (WTE&TE), which is also published by the UICEE.



The photo shows the exchange of the new agreement between the UICEE Director and Prof. D. Viswanathan (l-r).

World Transactions

Vol.5, No.1 of the *World Transactions on Engineering and Technology Education (WTE&TE)* is now in circulation and presents 46 internationally peer-refereed articles covering a diverse range of subject matter devoted to engineering and technology education. This is clearly the biggest issue of the WTE&TE to date, with this issue being almost as big as the journal's first *volume*. This illustrates how the WTE&TE is taking off in terms of its popularity and readership.

It is envisaged that Vol.5, No.2 will feature papers from the *Conceive – Design – Implement – Operate (CDIO)* initiative, which is gaining momentum with academics around the world. This should be published in early October and will initially be available by subscription.

The deadline of 30 September 2006 for the next issue of the WTE&TE, Vol.5, No.3, is fast approaching. UICEE members are encouraged to take up this opportunity and publish their original material in the *World Transactions*.

The electronic kit for authors will be sent upon request from Mr Marc Riemer of the UICEE on: uicee@eng.monash.edu.au

Further details can be found at the UICEE Web site under *World Transactions on Engineering and Technology Education*.

Readers should also note that the first two volumes of the WTE&TE are now available for free access on the UICEE Web site. This augments the UICEE's dissemination of refereed published information on engineering and technology education and enhances the availability of such education materials for every educator and student, as well as other interested parties, around the world.

10th Baltic Seminar

The *10th Baltic Region Seminar on Engineering Education* is a collaborative venture between the UICEE and the University of Szczecin, Poland, with Hochschule Wismar (HSW), Wismar, Germany, and Gdynia Maritime University, Gdynia, Poland, both partner institutions of the UICEE, acting as co-sponsors of this Seminar. The UICEE has been vigorously pursuing its advertising campaign concerning the organisation of the 10th Baltic Seminar, which is to be held at the University of Szczecin in Szczecin, Poland, from 4-6 September 2006. On this occasion, the Seminar will be held under the theme of *Education and Training for Engineering Entrepreneurship*.

It should be pointed out that the Seminar is being organised in conjunction with the *2nd Baltic Business Development Conference*, which is a collaborative venture between the HSW and the University of Szczecin.

The Preliminary Programme of the 10th Baltic Seminar is now available on the UICEE Web site at: <http://www.eng.monash.edu.au/uicee/meetings/10BalticProgramPreliminary.pdf>

Round Table Workshop

About 20 representatives of Partner institutions of the UICEE are expected to attend a *Round Table Workshop* for UICEE Partners, to be held at the UICEE European Headquarters (UICEE-EHQ) in Wismar, Germany, from 7-8 September 2006, immediately after the 10th Baltic Region Seminar.

The general aim of the Workshop is to create a platform for the exchange of information about the activities of the Partner institutions based in Europe within the UICEE structure. Both the UICEE and UICEE-EHQ will present their activities and specific programmes underway, as well as new ideas for future endeavours.

It is envisaged that there will be plenty of formal and informal opportunities for interaction in order to establish future collaborative programmes and ventures, and discuss the ways in which such ventures can receive financial backing from the existing funding agencies, especially those in the European Union (EU). There will also be other opportunities for networking and liaison with various UICEE members, in order to discuss and establish future collaborative programmes and ventures, plus some relaxation and enjoyment.

Hochschule Wismar (HSW) is a leading Partner institution of the UICEE and the host of the UICEE-EHQ. The objectives of the Workshop in Wismar are to:

- Become acquainted with the location, role and activities of the UICEE-EHQ;
- Learn more about the HSW, its teaching and research infrastructure and international activities;
- Exchange information in order to become informed about the role, activities and achievements of the Partner Institutions of the UICEE;
- Become familiar with the research and development activities carried out jointly by Partner Institutions of the UICEE;
- Formulate joint future research and development activities for the UICEE global network, as well as its European branch;
- Consider the preparation of joint research and development applications for grants to various local, European (7th Framework) and international funding agencies;
- Consider other issues and matters relating to the UICEE and its network of Partner Institutions.

Libyan Symposium

The General People's Committee for Higher Education and the Higher Institute for Engineering, Hoon will present the *Scientific Symposium on Higher Technical Education in the Libyan Jamahiriya*, from 8-9 November 2006 in Hoon, Libya.

This Symposium will address such key factors like

achieving scientific progress and continuous technical development by providing the necessary support and care for the components and pillars of technology, especially with regard to education generally, and technical education in particular.

This requires a firm connection with industrial and production institutions, and its rapid response to technical development. Moreover, it is important in the preparation of vocational qualities capable of creativity and renewal. Thus, technical education must play its distinguished role and keep up-to-date with the increasing scientific and technical developments through institutes, goals, programmes and curricula, which, in turn, should be evaluated and developed in a permanent and periodic manner. Therefore, educational and training programmes need to be re-examined in light of developmental needs, as well as the needs of society and its goals. The main languages of the Symposium are Arabic and English.

The Call for Papers can be found at: <http://www.eng.monash.edu.au/uicce/meetings/Hoon06.pdf>

10th UICEE Conference

We are pleased to announce that preparations are underway for the *10th UICEE Annual Conference on Engineering Education*, which is scheduled to take place at the East China University of Science & Technology (ECUST) in Shanghai, People's Republic of China, from 19-23 March 2007.

The Conference theme of this gala event at this exciting location is *Reinforcing Partnerships in Engineering Education*. The Call for Papers can be found on the UICEE Web site at: <http://www.eng.monash.edu.au/uicce/meetings/10thUICEE.html>

Elena's Arrival

On 6 June 2006, Mrs Elena Alexandrovna Danilova, formerly a lecturer in English for Specific Purposes (ESP) at Tomsk Polytechnic University (TPU), Tomsk, Russia, a Partner institution of the UICEE, commenced her studies and work at the UICEE.

Based at the UICEE, she is presently enrolled as a full-time postgraduate student in the Faculty of Arts via the Monash Asia Institute (MAI), with the UICEE Director acting as her main supervisor. Her studies will focus on research into the curriculum development for English and

communication studies in engineering and technology courses, with particular emphasis on ESP, with an objective to improve communication skills of students in developing countries, mostly where English is used as a second language.

Her enrolment through the MAI is yet another excellent example of collaboration across faculties at Monash University in order to promote multidisciplinary research and development. This strengthens the cooperation between the MAI and the UICEE, so well initiated in 2002 by the two parties, by the joint establishment of the Research Unit on Culture and Technologies in Asia (RUCTA).

As a young, aspiring scientist, Elena has already demonstrated considerable achievements by publishing numerous research papers.

It should be mentioned that her paper presented at the *9th Baltic Region Seminar on Engineering Education*, held in Gdynia, Poland, in June 2005, received the 2005 UICEE Diamond (First Place) Award, selected by Seminar participants in a popular vote, for a distinguished contribution in delivering an outstanding paper to the Seminar.

Apart from her post-graduate studies, Mrs Danilova is also a part-time project officer within the UICEE, where she is already strongly involved in

numerous research, development and promotional activities, including the organisation of international conferences on engineering and technology education in different parts of the world. The picture on this page shows Mrs Elena A. Danilova in her cosy settings in her UICEE office.

Staff, students and associates of the UICEE cordially welcome Mrs Danilova to the Centre, wishing her all the success in her professional endeavours.

Balkan Region Conference

The *4th Balkan Region Conference on Engineering Education*, under the theme *Bridging Cultures and Technologies in the 21st Century*, is to be held in picturesque and enchanting Sibiu, Romania, between 9 and 15 September 2007. Of note is the fact that Sibiu will be the *European Capital of Culture in 2007* (together with Luxembourg).

It is anticipated that this Conference will further enhance the UICEE links and networks, especially in the Balkan Region, and will set the stage for more innovative and collaborative ventures, not just regionally, but also internationally.



The photo shows Mrs E.A. Danilova in her office at the UICEE.

New UICEE- AAC Chairman

With the retirement from the position of Vice-Chancellor and President of Monash University of Prof. Peter LeP. Darvall in 2003, and his most recent resignation as Chairman of the UICEE Academic Advisory Committee (UICEE-AAC), Prof. Emeritus Colin U. Chisholm of Glasgow Caledonian University, Glasgow, Scotland, UK, took over this honorary position within the UICEE. The role of the UICEE-AAC is to advise the UICEE Director on academic matters concerning the operation of the UICEE. We look forward to our continuing close cooperation with Prof. Chisholm.



The photo shows Prof. Chisholm wearing the inaugural *UICEE Order for Excellence in Engineering Education*, which he received in Muscat, Oman, in February this year.

The photo shows Prof. Chisholm wearing the inaugural *UICEE Order for Excellence in Engineering Education* for his sterling and exemplary efforts in global engineering education, which he received at the recent 9th *UICEE Annual Conference on Engineering Education*, held in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, in mid-February this year.

On this occasion, staff, students and associates of the UICEE would also like to express their sincere gratitude to Emeritus Prof. Darvall for his unequivocal support provided over the last 12 years of the operation of the UICEE, as well as his gentle guidance in the diverse and burgeoning operation of the UICEE. We, indeed, wish Prof. Darvall a happy, healthy and prosperous retirement!

Australia-China Linkages

Prof. Yibing Cheng, Associate Dean, International and Dr Jiayan Pang, Manager, China Project, both of the Faculty of Engineering at Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, where the UICEE is based, Prof. Zenon J. Pudlowski, the UICEE Director, and the UICEE staff recently had an in-depth discussion concerning the Australia-China Consortium on Engineering Education and Research (ACCEER).

This Consortium is being organised by, and facilitated through, Monash University and focuses on the development and advancement of an interconnected network of Australian and Chinese universities and industry members.

The Faculty of Engineering at Monash University has taken an initiative of establishing the ACCEER and this Consortium is designed to provide a platform for cooperation between Australian and Chinese universities and industries. It focuses on facilitating industry-related research and education.

The ACCEER has established partnership programmes with two key Chinese universities, specifically Wuhan University of Technology (WUT) and Central South University (CSU). It has

also attracted support from the Victorian State Government, as well as some major Australian and Chinese companies. Several projects have been initiated, such as the following:

- Collaborative 2+2 undergraduate programme;
- Research workshops, conducted yearly since 2004;
- Joint research projects;
- Visiting professorships from China to Monash University;
- Guest lecturers from Monash University to Chinese universities;
- Industry sponsorships;
- Professional training;
- Joint supervision of postgraduate students.

The ACCEER has progressed well with the undergraduate engineering education programme in China and Australia. There will be a workshop this year at Central South University, Changsha, China, which is expected to initiate several research projects among the partner universities. The ACCEER inaugural opening is scheduled later this year in Beijing, China. Representatives from the Chinese and Australian governments, as well as industries, will attend the ceremony.

The ACCEER is aimed at further advancing cooperation to a higher level and for the long term.