



Newsletter

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Monash University

From the Director

This northern hemisphere summer, I attended a number of international conferences and meetings on engineering and engineering education. It is significant that Australians are very well represented at international meetings, and that Australian research and development projects in engineering education have made a strong impact on the international scene.

The highlight of these conferences was the recent 4th World Conference on Engineering Education, held at Minneapolis/St Paul, USA, at which Professor Peter Darvall, Monash University's Deputy Vice Chancellor, was elected Chairman of the International Liaison Group for Engineering Education (ILG-EE) and Associate Professor Zenon Pudlowski was re-elected Secretary.

ILG-EE is a working group on Engineering Education, registered in the UK as a charity organisation. The Group was established in 1989 at the 2nd World Conference on Engineering Education held at the University of Sydney. The main mission of the Group is to foster engineering education worldwide. Many outstanding international engineering educators are members of this Group.

Another coup for Monash is that the USICEE has been appointed as the organiser of the 5th World Conference on Engineering Education, to be held in Cracow, Poland, in September 1998. It is envisaged that the 5th World Conference will be a part of a large Global Congress on Engineering Education organised and coordinated by Australians in Central Europe. The Global Congress will also incorporate the 4th East-West Congress on Engineering Education and a Central and Eastern European Congress of Engineering Deans and Industry Leaders.

A number of regional conferences on engineering education, preceding the Global Congress, is being instigated by the USICEE, and will be held in 1997. The objective of this series is to raise the profile of engineering education in such regions as Africa, Central and South America, the Arab world, Asia-Pacific, and the countries of the former Soviet Union, and to prepare the stage for the Global Congress.

Women in Engineering

Recognising the under-representation of women on academic staff of engineering faculties worldwide, USICEE has established a scholarship scheme. The 'USICEE Women in Engineering Education Scheme' is offering research scholarships in engineering education leading to the award of the degree of Master of Engineering Science by research, in the first instance. Possibilities will exist to continue exceptional research projects which then would lead to the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

In the program, particular emphasis will be placed on research into human aspects of engineering, engineering pedagogy, training methodologies in engineering, educational technology, multimedia and computer-aided engineering education.

At this stage, the scheme provides two scholarships for women in 1996, each up

to \$20,000 per annum tax free, for an exceptional candidate with a first class honours degree. The possibility of extension of these scholarships for future years is subject to the availability of funds.

Applications close on 1 December 1995. Further details and application forms are available from the USICEE.

AJEE on the Internet

The Australian Vice Chancellors' Committee has awarded Monash University a grant to investigate the electronic publishing of technical journals. A project committee involving Monash University Library, the Unit of Medical Informatics and USICEE has been set up and the *Australasian Journal of Engineering Education* has been selected for this research. As a result, a full electronic version of the journal has been produced (Vol. 6, No. 1) and is currently available on the Internet. The address of the first electronic issue of the journal on the WWW is: <http://elecpress.lib.monash.edu.au/ajee/>

We are seeking reader reaction to the electronic version and have circulated a questionnaire (both electronically and in hard copy) with the issue.



International opportunities

USICEE runs several electronic mailing lists. Contact Roger Hadgraft, Associate Director of the Centre about these lists: roger.hadgraft@eng.monash.edu.au.

Some of the Centre's activities can be accessed on the Internet using any of the World Wide Web browsers (such as Netscape or Mosaic) at:
<http://civil-www.eng.monash.edu.au/usicee/usicee.htm>

1995 Congress

Monash was host to the *1995 International Congress of Engineering Deans and Industry Leaders* in July, the first time the congress had been held in Australia. Close to 200 participants from 35 countries attended the four-day Congress, which served as a forum to promote academic-industry cooperation, especially in developing countries and countries evolving towards a market economy. The next congress in the series will be held in Paris in July 1996.

The Congress Report, summarising the working sessions and recommendations, is now being distributed. Copies are available from the USICEE.

AAEE News

The 7th Annual Convention and Conference, under the theme, Internationalisation of Engineering Education, will be held at the The University of Melbourne from 10 to 13 December 1995. Further information is available from the Conference Secretariat, c/o USICEE.

East-West Congress

The 3rd East-West Congress on Engineering Education under the theme, Re-vitalising Academia/Industry Links, will be held at Gdynia Maritime Academy, Gdynia, Poland from 16 to 20 September 1996.

An initial circular about the Congress has been widely distributed inviting potential participants to submit abstracts by 20 December 1995. The USICEE is a Congress co-sponsor and all interested should contact the Centre for further information.

Central Europe Project

In September 30 libraries within academic institutions in the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland, were sent publications and literature relating to engineering education. This is another phase completed in USICEE's 'APTEA HOM' project, whereby expertise in engineering education is shared with countries developing engineering education. So far, each of these libraries has received publications worth more than \$3000.

USICEE is also currently collecting data to expand the project to include eight other Central and Eastern European countries. Albania, Bulgaria, Estonia, Hun-

gary, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Macedonia will be the next countries to benefit from this initiative.

International News

A further five co-operative agreements (bringing the total to 12) have been signed between USICEE and academic organisations in Germany, Italy, Pakistan, Ukraine and the Philippines.

The USICEE Director, A/Prof. Zenon Pudlowski has been appointed Honorary Dean of the English Engineering Faculty at Donetsk State Technical University in the Ukraine. This appointment follows the successful operation of the International Faculty of Engineering at the Technical University of Lodz, Poland, of which he has been Foundation Dean and Professor (in absentia) since 1992.

Cross-cultural workshops and seminars

In September, USICEE conducted a seminar for technical personnel on *Cross-cultural Negotiation Skills, Case Study Vietnam*. The aim of the seminar was to assist the development of communication skills critical for completing successful business negotiations in Vietnam.

This was followed by a workshop entitled *Interviewing Across Cultures*, which helped participants to identify professional staff with appropriate skills to access target markets for the expansion of their business.

It is anticipated that further workshops and seminars on related themes will be held in the next few months.

1995 Engineering Excellence Awards

USICEE submitted an entry for this year's Engineering Excellence Awards sponsored by IEAust. Over 100 entries were submitted, of which 15 were selected by the IEAust judging panel to be worthy of Excellence Awards, with 23 projects being Highly Commended. Although the Centre was not amongst these, it was successful in being shortlisted for an award, a considerable achievement in itself.

Open Day

USICEE joined with the Department of Electrical & Computer Systems Engineering for an Open Day display. Professor Fred Symons and Ms Linda Wilkins designed a display, 'Teaching and Learning Styles in Engineering Education', and USICEE publications and a computer-based aptitude test were available to visitors.