



UNESCO International Centre for Engineering Education



Newsletter

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From the Director

Last August and September, I spent visiting many universities in Europe and Russia, including one in Siberia that is ranked as number one in all of Russia. I have already elaborated on many occasions about European universities and the issues and challenges that they face in this era of rampant globalisation, and so I would like to concentrate now on different geographical areas of the world.

Prof. T.W. Cole, Prof. P.LeP. Darvall and I had the opportunity to visit Russia last September, and specifically we went to Tomsk in western Siberia. For some time, we have all been fed by many sensationalist journalists about Russia and its current problems and deficiencies. To my astonishment, Moscow looks better than many western European capital cities and one can see that much progress has been achieved over the past few years in their conversion from a centralised economy to a free market economy.

I visited many Russian universities back in 1994 and 1995, and could compare favourably what has been done in the last few years. I can assure you that the Russians have made enormous advances in their efforts to overcome all the difficulties related to this transitional change.

With the commercialisation of engineering education, a lot of mud is flying in the air in order to snatch the market of international tertiary students. However, after a few years in decline, Russia is re-emerging as a serious provider of higher education on a scale unmatched by any of the western countries, with its numerous excellent universities and reasonable tuition fees.

I would therefore encourage members of the UICEE network not to ignore the potential that lies to the east of the River Elbe and look forward to the opportunities in collaborating with those on the other bank for the benefit of the globalisation of engineering education.

Badge of Honour Awards

Three outstanding international engineering academics were awarded either the UICEE Gold or Silver Badge 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* on the occasion of the 4th Baltic

Region Seminar on Engineering Education, held in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Two Gold Badges of Honour were awarded to Prof. Hans Peter Jensen, Rector of Technical University of Denmark (DTU), Lyngby, Denmark, and to Prof. Michael L. Brisk, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering at Monash University, Melbourne, Australia.

The Silver Badge of Honour was awarded to Prof. Palle Sørensen, Director of the Centre for Engineering Educational Development at the DTU.

Staff, students and associates of the UICEE congratulate the awardees on this occasion of receiving these prestigious awards.



The photo shows the two Gold Badge of Honour awardees at the 4th Baltic Region Seminar on Engineering Education, (l-r) Prof. Michael L. Brisk and Prof. Hans Peter Jensen.

4th Baltic Region Seminar

Close to fifty international engineering educators and some partners, representing 15 countries worldwide, attended the 4th Baltic Region Seminar on Engineering

UICEE Partners



Education, which was held at the Technical University of Denmark (DTU) between 1 and 3 September 2000 in Copenhagen, Denmark. This follows on the success of previous Seminars held in that region.

While the scope of this series of Seminars focuses more on the Baltic region, greater international involvement has been evidenced, including participation from other continents.

Many papers were presented that embraced a diverse range of topics relevant to engineering education. The final Proceedings have just been printed and are available for purchase to those who did not attend.

Visit to Hungary

In August, the UICEE Director visited three Hungarian universities and discussed the possibilities of establishing working relations with those Universities. The first visit was to the University of Miskolc, where he was hosted by Prof. Gyula Patkó, Vice-Rector for Scientific Affairs. He then visited the University of Veszprém where he was received by Prof. Ákos Rédey, Vice-Rector for Scientific and Foreign Affairs. Finally, he went to the University of Pécs where he met Prof. József Asványi, Dean of the College of Engineering.

All these visits had the objective of learning more about the engineering education carried out at those institutions, and how they realise their international involvement.

High on the agenda was the possibility of staging a major international conference on engineering education on Hungarian soil in collaboration with several Hungarian institutions supporting this venture.

Satellite Centre Networking

It is notable, and indeed significant, that the UICEE's outstanding (and growing) system of satellite centres has generated a network where bilateral support between these satellite centres is being developed. Opportunities exist for the Centres to develop their own theme-based collaborative ventures.

One prime example is currently evolving between the Caledonian Centre for Engineering Education (CCEE) based in Glasgow, Scotland, UK, and the Ryerson Centre for Engineering Education (RCEE), based at the Ryerson Polytechnic University in Ontario, Canada. It is very likely that the CCEE will soon be dispatching a delegation to the RCEE. Such a delegation would seek to establish future collaborative ventures in engineering and technology education between

the two satellite centres and would focus on the joint development of multimedia-based materials for engineering education. The RCEE was taken as a logical choice as it has taken multimedia-based material development as its primary topical interest.

It is anticipated that other Partner institutions will develop their own programmes further by bringing other members of the UICEE network to their main stream of research and development.

100 Years of TPU

Last September witnessed the 100th anniversary of the Tomsk Polytechnic University (TPU) in Tomsk, Russia. The culmination of the celebrations was held between 6 and 7 September. Several overseas visitors ventured to Siberia to experience the warmth and enormous

hospitality provided by the Russians, and three Australian academics formed a delegation representing the UICEE. A gala performance by various university artistic groups was the highlight of the celebrations.

Overseas visitors were privileged to meet many outstanding Russian academics, including a Russian cosmonaut, Prof. Victor Savinykh, who is currently Rector of one of the oldest technical universities in Moscow, the Moscow State University of Geodesy and Cartography.

Two of these academics received the UICEE's Silver Badge of Honour for *distinguished contributions to engi-*

neering 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 TPU Rector, Prof. Yuri Pokholkov, and the Vice-Rector, Prof. Alexander Chuchalin. The picture shows Prof. Y. Pokholkov receiving his Silver Badge from Prof. Peter LePoer Darvall, Chairman of the UICEE Academic Advisory Committee.

1st Siberian Seminar

The UICEE was delighted, and indeed privileged, to have been involved in the organisation of the *1st Russian Seminar on Engineering Education*. This Seminar was entirely dedicated to Siberia and its problems, opportunities and challenges in the 21st Century, so much so that the Seminar was appropriately called the *1st Siberian Seminar on Engineering Education*. It was organised as one of the activities of the 100th anniversary of the TPU, from 7-8 September 2000.



The photo shows (l-r) Prof. P.LeP. Darvall presenting the Silver Badge of Honour to Prof. Y. Pokholkov.

The Seminar addressed issues of concern to those who would like to bridge national boundaries and have ventured a few thousand kilometres to western Siberia to learn about others' achievements and to promote their own accomplishments.

On this occasion of the Seminar, the UICEE Director received the TPU 100th Anniversary Jubilee Medal for his *active contribution to the development of the international activities of the TPU*. The picture shows Prof. Z.J. Pudlowski receiving the TPU Medal.

The Seminar programme included an excursion to the Taiga, which was a life experience for the Australian guests and their partners. They were very fortunate to land in the middle of the wilderness with the kaleidoscopic changing colours of early autumn and the spectacular flora and fauna.

Meeting with the RAEE

The Chairman and the Director of the UICEE, along with Prof. T.W. Cole, who is a member of the UICEE Academic Advisory Committee, spent a couple of days in Moscow visiting the famous Moscow State Aviation Technology University (MATI) where they were hosted by its Rector, the late Prof. Boris Mitin, the Immediate Past President of the Russian Association for Engineering Education (RAEE). They were introduced to the University and were informed about new developments, its teachings and research programmes, and also visited a laboratory of modern materials technology.

Also, they held several meetings with the Director-General of the RAEE, Prof. Alexei Nesterov, to discuss future collaboration between the UICEE and the RAEE. The entire visit to Moscow permitted the UICEE to learn more about Russian engineering education and its future directions.

Asia-Pacific Forum

The 3rd Asia-Pacific Forum on Engineering & Technology Education will be held at the National Changhua University of Education in Changhua, Taiwan, between 8 and 11 July 2001. The University President, Prof. Tze-Li Kang, has accepted the position of the Honorary Chairman of the Forum.

It is envisaged that the 14th General Annual Meeting of the International Liaison Group for Engineering Education (ILG-EE) will be held in conjunction with the Forum.

All UICEE members are cordially invited to submit a paper proposal. A call for papers may be found in the UICEE homepage on the Internet.

South Asia Centre

We are delighted to inform our readers that the South Asia Centre for Engineering Education (SACEE), a newly established satellite centre of the UICEE at Anna University in Chennai, Madras, India, is developing at an accelerated pace. A comprehensive homepage presenting the Centre's role, objectives and future activities is currently being constructed and should be ready soon.

Anna University is a prime higher education institution in India, which is run under the leadership of Professor Adinarayana Kalanidhi, who himself is deeply involved in the development of the SACEE. With this powerful support, we can see that the Centre has a bright future to come.

UICEE Grows

In recognition of its commitment, the growing international reputation and its role as a global hub of engineering education, the UICEE has been awarded new and much larger office space, allowing for the enhanced realisation of our mission, goals and activities.

We are grateful to the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Prof. Michael L. Brisk, for his continuing and strong support given to the UICEE. This is in line with the Faculty's philosophy of being the global provider of quality engineering and technology education, and exceptional services to the international engineering community.

With this in mind, the UICEE welcomes any potential sponsor to provide support for the furnishing and necessary equipment for this expanded Centre.

New CCEE Coordinator

Since Dr George Burns' recent departure, a new Coordinator has been appointed for the Caledonian Centre for Engineering Education (CCEE), a satellite centre of the UICEE at Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU) in Glasgow, Scotland, UK. The incumbent is Mr Brian Temple from the Department of Engineering at the GCU, and it is hoped that he will bring his extensive experience in engineering education to the growth of the Centre, as emphasised by the Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology, Prof. Colin U. Chisholm: *The focus of [the] CCEE will now be heavily built around the main Department of Engineering in the Faculty...*



The photo shows the UICEE Director (r) receiving the TPU's 100th Anniversary Jubilee Medal from Prof. Yuri Pokholkov.

Wismar Visitor

Ms Ulrike Schimmel from Hochschule Wismar in Germany, has recently joined the UICEE as an occupational trainee for six months. Ms Schimmel is a senior undergraduate student of architecture back at her University, and is here to study and research with the UICEE's Urban Design Education Programme (UDEP) as part of her own project.

Urban Design Update

The Urban Design Education Programme (UDEP) ran an *Urban Design Course for Practitioners* in August. This was a successful follow-up to the *Leading by Design* course run in April for councillors and executives.

An *Executive Course on Infrastructure in the Making of Cities* will be conducted in late November, and will include a design studio that will focus on the Richmond train station, which spans a major intersection near the Central Business District in Melbourne, Australia. Prof. William Alsop of the UK, who has previously been active in other international innovative projects such as the Rotterdam transport hub, will be involved in this three-day event.

Polish Celebrations

On 27 September 2000, the UICEE Director attended the *14th Beskidy's Seminar on Electrical Engineering* at the beautiful mountainside resort of Istebna in Poland, located only 4km from the border with the Czech Republic. This event was organised by the Silesian Technical University (STU), Gliwice, Poland, which is a Contributing Member of the UICEE.

The highlight of the Seminar, which attracted the cream of electrical engineering academia in Poland, including several university rectors, were the 50th birthday celebrations of our close friend and strong supporter of the UICEE, Prof. Krzysztof Kluszczyński of the STU, and three other celebrants who are also distinguished Polish professors.

It was a spectacular and unusual event that included special presentations by the jubilee celebrants of their best academic work, and which formed the basis for a highly intellectual academic discussion.

Seminar participants had the chance to attend a special Mass celebrated on this occasion by the Archbishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of Silesia, based in Katowice, His Eminence Damian Zimoń. Afterwards, spiritually reconciled and comforted, Seminar attendees enjoyed themselves at a dinner party where local cuisine, cooked by mountaineers, could delight any sophisticated palate.

Prof. Kluszczyński is presently President of the Polish Society of Theoretical and Applied Electrotechnics and is well known to those who attend UICEE conferences. He has entertained engineering educators on a couple of occasions, not only with his high quality papers, but also with his excellent piano recitals when he played Chopin's music in the best Polish style and tradition.

Staff, students and associates of the Centre wish Prof. Kluszczyński all the best for another 50 years, with prolific academic successes, good health, prosperity and several future grandchildren!

Visit to Pilsen

As one of the last activities in the European summer, the UICEE Director visited the University of West Bohemia (UWB) based in Pilsen in the Czech Republic. The visit was on the invitation of the Rector of the University, Prof. Zdeněk Vostrácky, and was arranged by the nomination of Prof. Daniel Mayer of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering.

The Director was given the opportunity to discuss various issues of common interest, including matters involved in the transition of engineering education in the Czech Republic. Also, he learnt about the teaching and research facilities available at the university.

It should be mentioned at this point that Prof. Mayer was one of the first international academics to become a member of the UICEE.

We look forward to the UWB becoming a member of the UICEE and getting involved in our projects and activities.



The late Prof. Boris S. Mitin.

Farewell to Prof. B. Mitin

In the last minutes before delivering this Newsletter to the printers, we received a message from the Moscow State Aviation Technology University (MATI) that their long-standing Rector, Prof. Boris S. Mitin, passed away on the 3rd of November. He was suffering from a prolonged heart condition.

Our association with Prof. B.S. Mitin goes back to 1992 when he was the President of the Russian Association for Engineering Education. He visited Australia on a couple of occasions and attended several UICEE-organised conferences. Moreover, he was one of the first international academics to respond to our call of becoming a member of the UICEE. The picture shows Prof. Mitin in his colonel's uniform.

Staff, students and associates of the Centre wish to pass our sincere condolences to his wife Galina Vladimirovna Dubovaya, family, friends and staff at the MATI. We will remember Prof. Mitin as a generous, amicable man who was honest and straightforward.

Farewell Boris, we will miss you greatly.