
Editorial

Early July 2000 saw the extremely successful 2nd *Global Congress on Engineering Education* held at Hochschule Wismar - University of Technology, Business & Design in Wismar, Germany.

Over 150 international academics, industry, government and professional association representatives from over 30 countries, including many rectors, vice-rectors and engineering deans, attended the Congress and presented their papers. Close to 120 paper presentations were made, most of which were included in a hardbound volume of Congress Proceedings.

Four opening addresses and 20 keynote presentations were made and all touched on a diverse range of issues of importance to engineering and technology education, and were also televised on the Internet, a positive step forward in increasing the access to this important engineering education event. The addresses were followed by open discussions to ensure greater interactive participation in the Congress.

The Congress aired and addressed experiences within the global engineering education community in the context of rapidly changing technology and production processes. Several key issues of importance were pinpointed for Congress deliberations.

This Special Edition of the *Global Journal of Engineering Education* (GJEE) includes revised and expanded versions of keynote addresses and the five award papers, which have been democratically selected by registered Congress participants for their significant contribution to engineering education. Typically, five awards are presented in the diamond, platinum, gold, silver and bronze categories. The selected papers are:

- Diamond: *The East-West dialogue on engineering education in the 21st Century*, by F-M. Lee, Chinese Culture University, Taipei, Taiwan.
- Platinum: *Reformation of technical education by project-orientated education (Theoprax)*, by P. Eyerer[†], B. Hefer[†] and D. Krause[‡], Fraunhofer Institute for Chemical Technology, Pfintztal[†]; University of Stuttgart, Stuttgart[‡], Germany.
- Gold: *Why do our students not learn as we wish them to?*, by S. Kolari[†] and C. Savander-Ranne[‡], Tampere Polytechnic, Tampere[†]; Helsinki Polytechnic, Helsinki[‡], Finland.
- Silver: *World Mathematical Year 2000: modern mathematical learning in engineering education – taking the German societal environment into consideration*, by N. Grünwald and D. Schott, Hochschule Wismar – University of Technology, Business & Design, Wismar, Germany.
- Bronze: *Performing experiments at remote locations using the Internet*, by H. Ewald[†] and G.F. Page[‡], Hochschule Wismar, – University of Technology, Business & Design, Wismar, Germany[†]; Liverpool John Moores University, Liverpool, England, United Kingdom[‡].

Also included are Opening Welcomes delivered by eminent persons involved in the Congress.

The publication and distribution in the GJEE of these Congress papers ensures that the value of their contribution to engineering education continues well beyond the event itself.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the many international colleagues who contributed to this Congress, and indeed to this Special Edition of the GJEE. My special thanks go to Prof. Norbert Grünwald, Chairman of the Congress Organising Committee, for his outstanding contribution to the organisation of the Congress and for his contribution to this Special Edition of the GJEE as Guest Editor.

Zenon J. Pudlowski

