
Editorial

This regular issue of the *Global Journal of Engineering Education* (GJEE), Vol.5, No.1, is a compilation of high quality UICEE award papers and invited papers that address and discuss a wide range of topics and research and development activities in engineering education.

The opening paper gives a comprehensive overview of the present status and organisation of engineering education in Russia and the quality training of specialists related to the area of high and advancing technologies. The next two papers present and discuss modern approaches to the management of higher education institutions in India and Germany, discussing the achievements and challenges resulting from the new and advancing technology and contemporary higher education processes.

The UICEE award papers stemmed from the 3rd UICEE Annual Conference on Engineering Education, which was held in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, from 9 to 12 February 2000. The publication of these papers has been slightly delayed due to the series of special issues published in 2000.

Finally, this issue includes some invited papers from authors who have shown their outstanding achievements in research and development activities in engineering education, as well as significant commitment to the activities of the UICEE through their regular participation and presentation of papers at UICEE run conferences.

Our readers should be aware of the fact that the UICEE has instigated the establishment of more than a half dozen satellite centres in different parts of the world. This should stimulate the expansion of the research and development activities in engineering education of the so-called *UICEE Global Family of Engineering Educators*, thereby strengthening the relationship between members of this family. Accordingly, future editorial plans include the publication of a special edition of the GJEE completely dedicated to the status, quality, activities and achievements of the UICEE and its satellite centres.

Perhaps it would be appropriate at this stage to explain the editorial policy of the GJEE; we have introduced a strict system of selecting papers for inclusion in our Journal in order to ensure the publication of high quality papers. UICEE run conferences have shown themselves to be a strong proving ground to elicit high quality papers due to the fact that all papers are being strictly peer reviewed by two international referees before being accepted for inclusion in the conference proceedings. Furthermore, on the basis of the referees' reports, the best papers are selected to be keynote addresses and lead papers.

Moreover, the UICEE has instituted its Best Paper Awards, which are presented at UICEE conferences, the selection of which is based on popular vote of conference participants. Normally, each major conference selects and awards about five papers. Authors of these awarded papers are then invited to revise and expand their work by adding issues of importance that may not have been otherwise included in the papers due to space restrictions. They may also address some issues that may have been raised during the question and discussion time at the conference. Apart from award papers, we may also invite keynote addresses and lead papers to be revised, expanded and submitted for consideration.

These expanded versions of the submitted papers are again refereed by two international academics who are members of the Editorial Board of the GJEE and who confirm the leading standard of the papers to be published. This stringent procedure has resulted in the publication of the best papers and therefore ensured the high quality content of the Journal. Another criterion in publishing journal papers is that we endeavour to give priority to members of the UICEE.

In conclusion, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to all the authors of the papers presented in this issue and congratulate them in their outstanding achievements. I am sure that readers will find this issue interesting and relevant to their academic activities.

Zenon J. Pudlowski

