
Editorial

The papers included in this Special Edition of the Global Journal of Engineering Education (GJEE) originated mostly from the recent 3rd *Asia-Pacific Forum on Engineering and Technology Education*, which was held at the National Changhua University of Education (NCUE), Changhua, Taiwan, between 8 and 11 July 2001.

The Forum host, the National Changhua University of Education, is located within the urban area of Changhua in middle Taiwan. Founded in 1971, the University has two campuses and is continuing to broaden the subjects and opportunities offered to its students. The NCUE was, in part, chosen to host this important Forum to coincide with its 30th anniversary celebrations. Three colleges have been established within the University: the College of Education, the College of Science Education (renamed the College of Science in 1993), and the College of Vocational Education. Since its foundation, the NCUE has generated faculties and departments for the training of teachers in humanities education, science education and vocational education. To meet the needs of Taiwan's national educational and economic development, the NCUE has steadily expanded and complied with educational policies and government directives.

It should be mentioned at this point that academics at the NCUE actively pursue an extensive range of research and development activities in engineering and technology education, specifically related to human resource development, teachers' training and industrial education. Particular emphasis is being placed on so-called soft skills, as well as personality traits, attributes and attitudes, so vital for the harmonious development of a professional engineer or technologist. These have been grossly neglected in the formal education and training in the Western culture, but they form an essential and imperative component of education, training and upbringing in the Eastern culture. The School of Industrial Technology at the NCUE, in particular, has developed a postgraduate programme under which several hundred students undertake research projects leading to the award of Masters or doctorates. This Special Edition, under the title *Research and Development Activities at the National Changhua University of Education*, aims to present some of the projects recently accomplished or being presently carried out at this dynamic university.

The Asia-Pacific region is an area that represents great diversity, both culturally and in educational matters, which in turn reflects, to some degree, the national identity and the effects of globalisation on education, and on engineering and technology education in particular. Therefore, it is hoped that readers will find the papers included in this Special Edition representative of the changing times and challenging situations in the Asia-Pacific and will find the topics, issues and ideas presented here relevant to their interests.

On behalf of the Editorial Advisory Board of the GJEE, and indeed myself, I wish to express our sincere gratitude to Prof. David W-S. Tai, Dean of the School of Industrial Technology at the National Changhua University of Education, for his support provided to the organisation of the 3rd *Asia-Pacific Forum on Engineering and Technology Education* and the editorial effort in the preparation of this Special Edition for publication.

Zenon J. Pudlowski

