# Global Journal of Engineering Education

## Editorial

As observed in an earlier editorial, the evolution of contemporary academia is being influenced by a range of factors. One of these is the recent global financial crisis (GFC), and others relate to the very core academic activities: teaching, research and community engagement. Here, we should acknowledge the work and expertise of our distinguished colleague and Associate Editor of the WIETE journals, Dr Ian R. Dobson, who has published extensively on the issues concerning the nature and management of higher education institutions, and their critical role in this complex world. The Global Journal of Engineering Education (GJEE), Vol.14, No.3, included his article entitled: *It's a man's world: the academic staff gender disparity in engineering in 21$^{st}$ Century Australia,* which examined the gender disparity in engineering, and engineering education, in particular.

The current issue of the GJEE, Vol.15, No.2, presents as its opening article *Is there a conflict between teaching and research? The views of engineering academics in Europe*, co-authored by Professor Timo Aarrevaara, Head of the University of Helsinki's Higher Education Governance and Management (HEGOM) unit, and Dr Ian R. Dobson. The authors present *an analysis of data from the international Changing Academic Profession (CAP) and the Academic Profession in Europe: Response to Societal Changes (EUROAC) surveys to compare engineering academics that prefer teaching over research, and vice versa.* The study is based on survey responses by engineering academics from the 12 participating European countries. The article also touches on *the attitudes of each of these groups to teaching and research, the two major academic activities*, and draws several conclusions about this extremely interesting topic.

The issue concludes with an article entailed *Controlling people-safety* by our member, colleague and friend, Dr Ronald B. Ward, a long standing engineering practitioner, consultant, academic and researcher, who is passionate about engineering education and industrial training, and in particular about engineering management, engineering work safety, risk management, risk assessment, accidents, and others. Ron has published extensively on the topics of his interest in the WIETE (and its antecedent UICEE) journals and peer refereed conference proceedings. Many of his experiences are included in a novel entitled *A Project in Ammonia*, recently published by Sid Harta Pty Ltd in Melbourne, Australia.

In between these two articles, readers will find a selection of seven highly informative and interesting articles from authors based in the People's Republic of China, Taiwan (3), Kenya, Malaysia and the USA.

I would also like to draw the attention of our colleagues to the fact that preparations are in full swing for the 3$^{rd}$ Mediterranean Seminar on Engineering and Technology Education (MSETE), to be held between 9 and 11 September 2013 at the Technological Education Institute of Piraeus**,** Piraeus-Athens, Greece, a partner/member institution of the World Institute for Engineering and Technology Education (WIETE). Further, a call is hereby made for papers and contributions to the 5th WIETE Annual Conference and Engineering and Technology Education, to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, between 17 and 21 February 2014, previously planned for Rotorua. Details are available from the WIETE site on the Internet. I recommend that our members, associates and sympathisers take advantage of the excellent opportunities provided by these two international events by attending and presenting their research papers.

In presenting this issue to our readers, I wish to express our gratitude to the contributors for their excellent articles and the international referees for their time and effort in reviewing them. Also, my special thanks are directed to Dr Dianne Q. Nguyen and Dr Ian R. Dobson for their contribution to the preparation of this issue. Finally, I wish to express my hope that this issue will become an important source of useful information and reference.

**Zenon J. Pudlowski**