

Editorial

Attending specialised international conferences is one of the important activities of every academic. It is a fallacy to say that this activity in its face-to-face form could be eliminated or at best substituted by a virtual conference facilitated by modern electronic technology over the Internet. To some extent, the virtual form is a viable option in such unforeseen circumstances as a pandemic. However, by no means it can replace a personal encounter, in a face-to-face meeting. Our long-term experience in running international conferences is that that this personal contact, often at less formal time or social activities has been conducive to generating and actioning new ideas, such as cooperative educational programmes, joint research projects, publications, etc. Unfortunately, the recent pandemic has strongly affected the strength of the WIETE as an international education broker able to facilitate such academic undertakings.

Surely, over the last three years, the WIETE has done its best in maintaining the academic flow and exchange of information on research developments and accomplishments, both at the institutional and individual level, through stimulation and engagement in a few virtual conferences. The virtual, over the Internet commencement of the WIETE conference activities began with the 2020 Conference on Engineering and Architecture Design Education (EADE-2020) organised in collaboration with the Faculty of Architecture at Gdańsk University of Technology, Gdańsk, Poland which, to some extent, fulfilled the gap left by the cancellation of two face-to-face meetings scheduled by the WIETE for 2020. Then, it was the EADE-2021 conference organised with the Faculty of Architecture and Design at Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Slovakia. In 2022, due to the persistent pandemic-related restrictions, the complicated political situation in Europe, and probably some *weariness* of virtual meetings, to it was decided not to venture with a conference in any format. However, this year - in 2023 due to a marked improvement in the Covid-related situation and despite the continuing conflict in Ukraine - a face-to-face conference was finally held!

The Conference on Engineering and Architecture Design Education (EADE-2023), was held between 12 and 14 June 2023, under the joint patronage of the Faculty of Architecture at Wrocław University of Science and Technology (FA-WUST), Wrocław, Poland, and other partner institutions of the WIETE. Encouraged by the success of this conference, several potential hosts have expressed their willingness to hold the EADE-2024 conference in their institutions. Interested readers may find more information at the WIETE-News site: <http://www.wiete.com.au/news.html>. Also, it is worth mentioning that our readers will find a number of papers presented at that conference in this issue of the World Transactions on Engineering and Technology Education (WTE&TE), marked as Vol.21, No.4.

This issue of the WTE&TE completes the annual publication effort of the WIETE, and consist of 13 articles, which presents research and development activities across interdisciplinary areas in relation to technology and engineering education that have come from seven countries with four articles from Poland, two articles each from Indonesia, Kazakhstan and Slovakia, and one article each from Columbia, South Africa and Thailand.

It is my real pleasure to thank the authors of these articles for their effort in research activities and achievements that can improve engineering and technology education and the teaching process. Special thanks are directed to the international referees for their work on the submitted papers, and to the WIETE editorial team, consisting of Professor Andrew Nafalski, Dr Dianne Q. Nguyen, Professor Derek O. Northwood, Mrs Dorota I. Pudlowski, Associate Professor Arthur J. Swart and Professor Robert Špaček.

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