

Editorial

This issue of the World Transactions on Engineering and Technology Education (WTE&TE), Vol.10, No.4 (2012) concludes the tenth year of successful operation of this international journal. This momentous year has seen many upheavals both in the global economy and international academia, which have significantly affected the progress of research, development and promotion of engineering and technology education. The already scarce funding dedicated to education has been eroded even further, leaving many academics without the financial resources required to pursue their research and development activities.

In launching the inaugural issue of the WTE&TE, the second journal from the then UNESCO International Centre of Engineering Education (UICEE), I wrote in my editorial that *...World Transactions seeks to break the paradigm constructs of traditional engineering and technology education by providing a forum for new ideas and methods. As such, there is no overriding engineering or technology theme but rather the overarching principle of the globalised expansion of engineering and technology education that is not confined to borders or regions; instead the World Transactions seeks to benefit all humankind through the wider dissemination of knowledge.*

The principal reason for establishing this journal was the recognition of the critical situation that academia faced at that time. Hence, in a news item included in the UICEE Newsletter, I wrote that *...The current international situation has unfortunately generated a climate that curbs and disrupts attendance at international conferences. This, in turn, impedes the discussion and interaction between international academics and contributes to the retardation of knowledge expansion and exchange. However, the need to publish remains, not just for recognition of individual and institutional work achieved, but more importantly for the exchange of ideas and the advancement of engineering education globally. The progress of knowledge for all humankind should not be confined to borders, nor indeed regions, and it is certainly not bound by particular modes of dissemination.* So when we look at the even more difficult current situation, our action to establish the World Transaction in 2002 and reviving it in 2009 was predictive, appropriate and timely.

In the ten annual volumes to date, the WTE&TE has published 638 articles from authors in more than 50 countries. Since its revival in 2009, 195 articles have been published, an average of about 49 articles per annum, compared with the 74 articles per year that were published up to 2008. Taking into account the number of articles published a year, an interesting observation can be made that if the austerity measures still remain, there will be even a further erosion of research and publishing in engineering and technology education.

This issue of the WTE&TE, Vol.10, No.4, includes seven articles from authors based in five countries. Four articles originated from authors based in Taiwan, two articles come from individual authors, one based in Canada and the other the USA, and one article comes from an author sharing his residence between Australia and Finland.

On this special occasion, I wish to thank all the authors who have contributed their research articles over the ten years of operation of the WTE&TE, thus, sharing their academic achievements with likeminded colleagues. I wish to acknowledge and thank several people for their assistance in publishing this journal over the last ten years: Dr Elena A. Danilova, Dr Ian R. Dobson, Mr Mark J. Riemer and Ms Krystyna B. Wareing. Special thanks are directed to Dr Dianne Q. Nguyen, who has provided invaluable help and assistance in the publication of the WTE&EE since its inception in 2002. Last but not least, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the reviewers for their time and effort in refereeing the articles, and to the Partner Institutions for their support of the WIETE and the WTE&TE, in particular.

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