

Editorial

This year's concluding issue of the World Transactions on Engineering and Technology Education (WTE&TE), designated as Vol.11, No.4, includes 44 highly revealing and educational articles coming from authors based in 11 countries worldwide. The majority of articles come from engineering and technology academics affiliated with higher education institutions in the People's Republic of China. The other contributions come from Australia, Germany, Greece, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Lithuania, Slovenia, Thailand, Taiwan and the United States of America, and most of this group's articles will be presented at the forthcoming 5th WIETE Annual Conference on Engineering and Technology Education, to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, between 17 and 21 February, 2014.

The 5th WIETE Annual Conference on Engineering and Technology Education, under the theme *Student-centred Engineering and Technology Education*, is being organised at the Cinnamon Residence in Bangkok, which is under the management of Mr Virat Prapruetdee a highly experienced colleague with whom we have organised close to ten very successful international conferences over the last 15 or so years. It is envisaged that apart from an interesting academic programme, the Conference will provide the setting for useful and friendly interactions, as well as an occasion for enjoyment at a range of social events and tourist attractions. WIETE members, associates and sympathisers not yet registered should consider taking advantage of this excellent opportunity to attend the Conference.

This present issue of the WTE&TE commences with an article entitled: *The niche institute strategy - the way out of economic crisis for Greek higher educational institutions: the case of the Technological Educational Institute of Western Greece*, authored by Professor Georgios C. Kabouridis, Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the newly formed Technological Educational Institute of Western Greece in Patras, Greece. In his article, the author states that his goal is:

...to analyse and evaluate the effects of the current economic and social crisis in public tertiary education in Greece. It concentrates on the opportunities and challenges that might arise from the complicated situation for the sector within the framework of a vulnerable economy, taking into account the recent restructuring initiatives that have been instigated by the Greek government. To repay its debt, Greece must succeed on two fronts: the country must become more competitive and more productive. To cope with the above targets, it is imperative that it proceed rapidly with structural changes, which are expected to bring back the country to sustainable development. Within these changes, public tertiary education has a unique opportunity to re-establish its role of forging a link between academia and industry, and to re-position tertiary education in the new environment. The article analyses the case study of the newly founded the Technological Educational Institute of Western Greece, established by merging the Patras and Messologi technological institutes.

The reading of this article is a must for all colleagues involved in higher education, as Greece is no exception to the impact of the recent GFC on academic institutions, and should be taken as an interesting case study.

Readers will observe that after a few years' interval, global engineering and technology educators will have the opportunity to meet again at the 3rd World Conference on Technology and Engineering Education, to be held at the Technological Education Institute of Piraeus, Piraeus-Athens, Greece, between 8 and 11 September 2014, with the Mediterranean Centre for Engineering and Technology Education (MCETE) and the World Institute for Engineering and Technology Education (WIETE) jointly providing the organisational support.

In making this issue available to the international public, I would like to express my cordial thanks to the referees for their timely reviews. I would also like to offer my heartfelt gratitude to our Associate Editors, Dr Dianne Q. Nguyen, Ms Krystyna B. Wareing and Dr Ian R. Dobson, for their invaluable assistance in the preparation of this issue for publication.

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