

World Transactions on Engineering and Technology Education

Editorial

What a pleasant coincidence! We, at the WIETE, are delighted and honoured to be publishing another regular issue of the *World Transactions on Engineering & Technology Education* (WTE&TE), Vol.8, No.4, especially given that all 22 fully peer-reviewed original articles in this issue come from one country - Taiwan. Another cause for our delight is that this issue concludes the WIETE publication effort in 2010, with four issues of the WTE&TE and 88 articles altogether, in the whole volume produced in 2010.

The completion of the first year of operation of the WTE&TE, after its reincarnation in 2009, with the volume including four issues, gives us good reason to present a set of statistics. Another reason for presenting these statistics is to demonstrate the steady increase in the number of articles coming from Taiwan. Therefore, the table below shows the achievements of the WTE&TE in half a year in 2009 and a full year in 2010.

Year	Issue	No. of Articles	No. of Articles from Taiwan
2009	Vol.7, No.1	15	5
2009	Vol.7, No.2	17	8
2010	Vol.8, No.1	20	10
2010	Vol.8, No.2	19	11
2010	Vol.8, No.3	27	15
2010	Vol.8, No.4	22	22
Total	6	120	71

The large number of research articles originating in Taiwan does not come as a surprise. The situation in Taiwan is that the Ministry of Education places special emphasis on, and encouragement of, academics in both state and private academic institutions to conduct research and development for the betterment of the nation and its people. The National Science Council of Taiwan provides financial support for many research and development activities in Taiwanese academia, and this is reflected in, and acknowledged by, the many research articles coming from Taiwan.

On a personal note: as a frequent visitor to Taiwan, I would like to share my observations concerning the highly positive atmosphere and the emotional attitude towards conducting research and development in engineering and technology education at Taiwanese academic institutions. This is for both the academic staff, who see this fundamental academic activity as their paramount objective, and for the institutional management that recognises that research and development - as reflected in the number of good research publications - places institutions in a privileged position, not only in Taiwan but, more importantly, in the world. This approach will definitely result in a significant number of research-based Masters and Doctorates in Taiwan that will eventually translate to considerable progress in manufacturing and service industries to the benefit of local community and individuals involved.

I believe that the four parties indicated above: the Ministry of Education, the National Science Council, the management of academic institutions, and the individual article contributors ought to be congratulated on their achievements and the desire to achieve their goals and objectives.

In summary, I wish to convey my sincere gratitude to the authors of these articles, and I trust that readers will find the articles in this issue to be revealing, informative and educational, and that this publication will become an important source of information central to their academic endeavours in engineering and technology education. Also, I would like to thank Dr Elena A. Danilova, Ms Dianne Q. Nguyen and Ms Krystyna B. Wareing for their invaluable assistance in preparing this issue for publication and distribution.

Zenon J. Pudlowski