



International Network for Engineering Education and Research

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Welcome Remarks

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Dear all!

On behalf of the iNEER board, a warm welcome to iCEE 2015, the International Conference on Engineering Education! This is the first time this conference is in Croatia. As the new Chair of the iNEER Board, I am pleased to address you at the opening of the conference. I am also very happy to visit this beautiful country which also has a long tradition of excellence in engineering and business management education, with a proud tradition of innovation with many famous inventors.

Nicolas Tesla is one name that comes to mind, born in what is current day Croatia. Tesla is a person I am sure you as engineering educators all know well. His “mad scientist” character even has become an icon in popular culture. “Tesla” is also the name given to the popular new, innovative, high-end electric car designed by the Canadian-American billionaire, engineer and investor Elon Musk. Another important inventor, although probably not as famous, is the Croatian Franjo Hanaman who invented the world's first applied electric light-bulb with a metal filament – what a fantastic endeavor - to be the inventor of a light bulb! Another example is Fausto Veranzio the alleged inventor of the parachute described in his book *Machinae Novae* from 1616. More contemporary engineering stars include the Croatian computer scientist Mario Kovač at the University of Zagreb who has made significant contributions to VLSI computer architecture and was involved in the early AMP mp3-player.

Innovation is as important as ever and I am excited to see dedicated sessions on innovation in the program of this conference.

We are very happy to be here in Zagreb, home of ZSEM, Zagreb School of Economics and management which has taken the responsibility of hosting this year's iCEE conference. ZSEM is a leading higher education institution in Croatia and ZSEM is among

the top-five percent of the highest-ranking business schools in the world. It landed an AACSB accreditation in 2013. ZSEM has a strategic emphasize the use of e-learning.

E-learning and distance education is also a recurring theme on the conference program. Other prominent topics include quality assurance, blended learning, project based learning, internationalization and best practices. These areas are all important and the program shows that the associated challenges are of a global nature. That is why is so valuable to have venues such as this conference where we can exchange ideas, learn from each other, get new contacts and bigger networks and return home inspired!

I would also like take the opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to all the individuals that has made this conference possible, especially Duro Njavro, Karmela Aleksic Maslac, Lana Mažuranić, the international advisory committee and the international steering committee.

I hope you make the most of the conference. Many of you are presenting papers and sharing your experiences, and some of you come to seek inspiration and new ideas. For me, the most important slots are the coffee breaks, common meals and social program. This is where we meet people and get immersed in rewarding discussions. I have found the iNEER conference series to be the prime venue for networking and establishing active contacts for educational and research collaborations. It is easy to connect with other conference delegates at this forum, everyone is open and eager to meet new people.

I hope you all also set aside some time to enjoy Zagreb itself, and I am sure many of us are very excited about the cultural excursion to Zadar on Friday.

As Chair of the iNEER Board, I look forward to meeting and chatting with you. I welcome your ideas about how we may serve you better. Together, we must work to strengthen the global education partnership in engineering and related fields such as economics and management. Our students depend on all of us to give them the knowledge to face the challenges that we constantly face.

I wish you a rewarding week in Zagreb.

Thank you!