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**Supporting letter
for awarding Dr Win Aung
with an Honorary Doctorate Degree
by University of Pecs.**

I know Dr Win Aung as the outstanding scientist and the originator of several important schemes of international cooperation, especially in the field of engineering education. I head a pleasure to meet Dr Aung for the first time almost ten years ago, on the occasion of his involvement in the organization of international cooperation under the umbrella of iNEER network and ICEE/ICEER conferences. Dr Aung is the founder of the International Conference on Engineering Education (ICEE, from 1994) and the International Conference on Engineering Education and Research (iCEER, from 2004), two popular series of conferences held around the world that focus on international networking and collaborative work. Dr Aung serves as Secretary-General of the International Network for Engineering Education and Research, iNEER, co-founded by him in 2000, and nowadays grouping over 26,000 outstanding members from 98 countries. Dr Aung is also Senior Staff Associate of the U.S. National Science Foundation. The outstanding creativeness and professionalism in the implementation of international engineering education partnership in my opinion place Dr Aung among the world class organizers of international cooperation in this field.

Dr Aung started his professional career in 1969 at Bell Telephone Laboratories where he carried out fundamental and applied research relating to electronic switching systems for telecommunication. He joined National Science Foundation in 1974 and since then he has served in various positions in this prestigious institution. In 1990 he was appointed to the position of Senior Staff Associate – Engineering Education in the Division of Engineering Education and Centers in the Directorate for Engineering. In 1983, he became Fellow of American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). Dr Aung has written extensively on topics dealing with research and education and is a frequent speaker at universities around the world and at international conferences. From 1976 he was an adjunct or visiting professor at a number of universities in USA and abroad, carrying out an active teaching and research program. He has over 120 technical publications, and has edited, co-edited and contributed to chapters in 15 books. Dr Aung became Fellow of American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) in 1983 and received the ASME Classic Paper Award in 1999. In the same year, he was awarded the Doctorem Honoris Causa (honorary doctorate degree) by VSB – Technical University of Ostrava, Czech Republic. Dr Aung also served as member of numerous Scientific Boards of universities and research institutes worldwide.

Dr Aung's involvement in USA National Science Foundation initiatives, from 1974, resulted in numerous innovative activities and successful projects in the field of engineering education and research. Among other, Dr Aung developed, promoted and implemented engineering education reform in the United States through the important 10-year initiative of Engineering Education Coalitions, aiming at reforming undergraduate engineering education in USA, including involvement of 60 academic institutions. Since 2004, Dr Aung has been Chair of the NSF Task Group on Assessment and Dissemination of Education Innovations, Engineering Education Research Centers Program, and is the NSF Member on the U.S. Government-wide Interagency Council on Standards Policy (ICSP). He created the NSF program on International Research and Education in Engineering (IREE) and is currently Chair of the IREE Working Group.

Dr Aung is renowned for his visionary leadership, innovations and accomplishments in developing global partnerships among educators in engineering, science and related fields. He is also the principal editor of the annual iNEER Special Volumes series entitled: World Innovations in Engineering Education and Research which he started in 2002. The series quickly became an important forum for dissemination of innovations in engineering education and research worldwide and gains rapidly growing interest among researchers and educators ready to share their experiences and future progress visions.

One should appreciate Dr Aung efforts in supporting our proposal of organisation of International Conference on Engineering Education in Poland. Thanks to his support the conference ICEE2005 took place at Silesian University of Technology in Gliwice in the period 25th till 29th of July 2005. Choosing Poland as organiser of so huge meeting of specialists in the field of engineers' education was consistent with leading idea of Dr Win Aung which aims to introduce universities from Central & East European countries to academic society of the worldwide iNEER network. Dr Win Aung supports also involvement of such universities as University of Pecs & Saratov State Technical University in activities in favor of engineering education. For his outstanding services for our university Dr Win Aung was awarded with Medal of Merit of Silesian University of Technology in 2005.

In my opinion the professional career of Dr Aung and his achievements in the areas of research, education and worldwide partnership organization in the field of engineering education, fully justify him being nominated for an honorary doctorate degree.

Sincerely yours,



Wojciech Zieliński
Rector, The Silesian University of Technology