

Preface

Engineering education is by all rights becoming the center of interest of developed societies as one of the main sources of social progress. With an avalanche of conferences dealing with this problem it is the International Conference on Engineering Education ICEE - Progress Through Partnership that is, by all means, building its status. The groundstone for the reputation was laid at the Conference ICEE'97 in Chicago.



The Conference ICEE'98 in Rio de Janeiro contributed to a high level of the discussed topic and to expanding its ideas to South America, and the first ICEE Conference in Europe was delegated to the Czech Republic.

Other Conference venues include Taipei (Taiwan, 2000), Oslo/Bergen (Norway, 2001), Manchester (UK, 2002), Valencia (Spain, 2003), Gainesville (Florida, 2004), Gliwice (Poland, 2005), San Juan (Puerto Rico, 2006) and Coimbra (Portugal, 2007).

This list of venues also demonstrates that a worldwide series of conferences has developed under the umbrella of iNEER. The continuously widening iNEER network of educators and researchers covers 98 countries.

Pollack Mihály Faculty of Engineering, University of Pécs (founded in 1367) and the Budapest University of Technology and Economics, celebrating its 225 jubilee, organize ICEE-2008 jointly in 2008.

We are grieved to tell you that Professor János Bársony, who was an eminent personality in the conference series, a scientific analyst of engineering education, a leading presenter of ICEE conferences, Dean of the University of Pécs, is not with us any more. He passed away from a serious, incurable disease in September, 2005. He considered it a great honour that he could attend the ICEE Conference in Gliwice, get an iNEER award and that a conference workshop was named after him shortly before he passed away. The participants of ICEE 2008 get a volume to the memory of János Bársony, in which there are memoirs by friends and colleagues and some articles about engineering education and the Bologna process by János Bársony.

This year's Conference opens the door to discussing the common issues of several professional fields, from accreditation proceedings to learning methodology and ideas. This is reflected in the conference theme "New Challenges in Engineering Education and Research in the 21st Century".

Major topics include academic teaching and administration, accreditation issues, active and cooperative learning, computer science education, cooperative networks, current trends in engineering and technology education, e-learning, environmental challenges, globalization, government policies, innovations, integrated laboratory instruction.

We hope that ICEE 2008 will be a worthy continuation of the conference series. The 433 abstracts from 58 countries submitted through the online registration system show that professionals are highly interested in ICEE 2008. The Scientific Board of ICEE 2008 accepted 330 papers. They can be read in the Abstract Book and the Proceedings.

The high scientific standard of the ICEE-2008 Conference was supported during the process of organizing the conference.

Therefore the high standard of the oral and poster presentations was assured with the following procedure, considering the traditions of the ICEE programmes.

The abstracts submitted for the conference were classified by the authors into the announced 43 topics.

The Presidential Board of the Scientific and Organizing Committee reviewed if the abstracts were classified correctly.

The authors were notified about the decision of the Presidential Board of the Scientific and Organizing Committee.

Pursuant to the timetable of the Conference, parallel sections were organized, which, in some cases, include two topics where there were not enough speakers for an even distribution of the presentations.

In addition to directing the work in the sections, the Conference Presidential Board asked the chairmen and co-chairmen to assess the quality of the papers submitted for presentation in advance, give suggestions for modification or additions, and send their comments to the Conference Presidential Board.

The members of the Scientific Committee of the ICEE-2008 Conference were invited with regard to the conception that those countries with three or more speakers at the conference should be represented.

We called upon the members of the Scientific Committee to review the presentations from their country and knowing the local specialities, provide advice so that the oral and poster presentations of the ICEE-2008 Conference shall be of a high academic standard. (The full papers from those countries represented with one or two presenters were reviewed by the Chairman of the Scientific Committee.)

The high standard of the ICEE-2008 Conference presentations is assured by two processes:

- By the section chairmen and co-chairmen
- Through the Scientific Committee members invited from different countries.

The high scientific standard of the ICEE-2008 Conference is assured by the thoroughly reviewed oral and poster presentations.

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