



*International Network for Engineering Education and Research (iNEER)  
Preston King Station, P.O. Box 5229, Arlington, VA 22205, USA*

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Dear Delegates of ICEE-2008:

Welcome to Hungary!

And welcome to the 2008 International Conference on Engineering Education, ICEE-2008.

This conference is being jointly organized by the University of Pecs and the Budapest University of Technology and Economics. At the University of Pecs, the conference sessions are held at the newly inaugurated facilities of the Pollack Mihaly Faculty of Engineering, which has 5,200 students, one of the largest among the ten faculties at the University of Pecs.

Like all of the conferences sponsored by iNEER, ICEE-2008 is focused on advancing engineering education through international cooperation. Increasingly, educators around the world are taking note of the important role that international cooperation can play in facilitating future advances in the profession. For several years now, globalization of the world economy has made international cooperation an increasingly important feature in the education of students in engineering. To be successful in today's global economy, students and faculty alike need to have a global perspective.

To help provide this perspective, universities and grants agencies in many countries are increasing the support for collaborative research and for international travel. In Europe, twelve (12) research universities have recently joined to create the fee-based Euroscholars Program.

In the U.S., the National Science Foundation is increasing funding for research-based international travel for both faculty and students. In 2006 and 2007, a new NSF program called the "International Research and Educations in Engineering (IREE)" funded over 250 grants involving more than 500 researchers, enabling more than 260 teams of students and young faculty members, to travel to 45 countries to engage in collaborative research.

The success of these research-abroad programs depends on the matching up of interests between the visiting researchers and the hosting institutions. Many professional societies are organizing international conferences in order to provide the opportunities.

ICEE-2008 is a good example of such an opportunity.

Beyond offering us the ICEE-2008 conference as a learning and networking venue, Hungary has much to offer us as a country, and I hope you will avail yourself of the opportunity to learn about its cultural tradition, food, history and business and education practices. You might learn that, for instance, as country, Hungary has the largest percentage of high school students taking engineering as a course of study in college!?

I close with the wish that you will have a great conference!

Thank you!

Köszönöm!

Sincerely,

Win Aung, Secretary-General  
International Network for Engineering Education and Research  
(iNEER)