



## A Word of Welcome

We have seen over the years how iNEER and its members, through various activities and initiatives have been developing and rolling out practical ways of achieving mutual progress through international partnership in engineering education and research. The ICEE is being accepted around the world as a very practical and realistic way of showcasing and promoting innovations in engineering education worldwide. The effort today is directed at future progress in engineering education and this is key to achieving sustainability and development, which remains crucial to the future progress of the global economy.

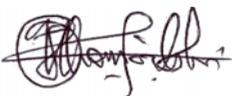
A successful undertaking cannot be implemented without a sound and solid foundation. In accepting the provision of pure science and applied research we must acknowledge the gap that there is which the higher education through universities and allied organizations do try to fill through the design and development of products and services delivered to global marketplace for improvement of life and society. The role and mission of engineering education is undergoing transformation. The role of faculty and students is important and this to a large extent is being dictated by the rate of technology. Education is an important vehicle for technology transfer. The economic growth of any country has depended and will continue to depend on advancement in technology. This in recent years, has become much more multidisciplinary. ICEE is helping to lay foundation for partnerships between different countries, international organisations including businesses and academics across the world. These networks are oftentimes the most important catalysts or elements for development.

The ICEE-2011 will provide a richly diverse “think-tank” environment and platform for the manifold stakeholders in the process of linking technology, engineering, education and sustainability for global development. This conference see the coming together of participants from the statutory and business sectors, research and technology and experts and practitioners at grassroots levels to discuss issues and examine challenges that faces our society of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

I will be delighted if this year’s conference provides a further stimulus for our common goals in the area of engineering sustainability for worldwide development, especially taking cognisance of the need for advanced nations and the emerging and disadvantaged countries to work together to achieve some if not all of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of the United Nations (UN) . Belfast, our host city this year, has my most heartfelt thanks for its great engagement and support. I would like to take the opportunity to express my particular appreciation and thanks to the University of Ulster and the Vice Chancellor Professor Richard Barnett, who has kindly and generously assumed the patronage of this year’s event, the Belfast Visitors and Convention Bureau, Sponsors, the various people and organisations here in Northern Ireland and members of the ICEE-2011 Belfast Conference Planning Committee and subgroups who have worked tirelessly in supporting and making this conference a success.

We whole heartedly say, welcome to Belfast!

Yours sincerely



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