Guest Editorial

THIS VOLUME of *International Journal of Engineering Education* contains a number of papers that were originally presented at the third conference in the IEEE's Multimedia Engineering and Education series, held at City University of Hong Kong (CityU) in 1998. They have been extensively revised as well as updated, and represent some of the leading-edge work being carried out around the world in the application of multimedia to engineering education.

Since the first such conference in Melbourne, Australia, in 1994, there have been many changes and advances in this field. What was once the province mainly of engineers and scientists has now become common place throughout all educational disciplines.

The aim of this volume, which follows in the tracks of those published after the first two conferences, is to provide details of the most up-to-date practices and evaluations of their implementation. The contents cover all aspects of the engineering curriculum, and the information will be interesting and applicable to both those who are preparing to use, or are using, multimedia in their teaching, and to those who just want to know what all the fuss is about!

The papers presented here were selected by the attendees as the best out of the nearly 70 papers given at the conference. They cover a whole range of engineering disciplines, as well as support and servicing courses. Some of the papers look at the planning and implementation of engineering courseware, others also try to evaluate the effectiveness of the teaching techniques used.

It is appropriate that CityU should have hosted the conference. The university has taken a number of initiatives over the past few years to integrate new and innovative teaching techniques into its curriculum. It was the first university in Hong Kong to establish a Quality Enhancement Fund that supported many of the initial projects that have been developed into courseware over the past few years. It was also the first university outside of North America to fully implement Integrated Studio Teaching, and the establishment of the first Integrated Teaching Studio in 1996 marked a significant advance in the range of teaching and learning experiences available to CityU students. In fact, the studio teaching model has met with such enthusiasm amongst staff and students that the university is currently in the process of converting some of its traditional lecture theatres into more studios. At the same time, the synthesis of education and entertainment that is promised by multimedia has led CityU to establish a School of Creative Media.

I hope that this volume will be found both interesting and useful by all who read it. I also hope that the reader may learn something that they can use in their own teaching methodologies. As information technology in all its guises continues to permeate our world, education is not immune—and it is incumbent upon all educators to, at least, be aware of what's going on, even if they do not use the technology themselves.

A CD-ROM of the full conference proceedings—some 70 papers—is also available. Price $25 (P&P included) from: Dr. Terry Ng, City University of Hong Kong, Kowloon, Hong Kong. E-mail: eetckng@cityu.edu.hk.

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