

# Editorial

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The current issue of the IJEE is the first of the year 2021; I hope this year will be better than the year 2020 for everyone; it was rather a tough year. It is difficult to point out anything positive during tough situations. But it is possible in the future that one could find useful outcomes in all aspects including engineering and engineering education.

The current issue has contributions by numerous authors on varied topics related to engineering education, including: PBL, Information Literacy, Project Management, Civic Mindedness, Idea Generation, Simulation and Animation, Engineering Dynamics, Problem Solving, Motivation, Neuroeducation, STEM, Diversity, Cooperative Learning, Accreditation, Competencies, Manufacturing Engineering, Smart City, Disaster Prevention, Life-Long Learning, Class Scheduling, Computer Engineering, and Lecture Delivery Methods.

The authors are from institutions in Belgium, USA, Spain, South Africa, Egypt, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan (ROC), Serbia, Germany, Chile, Colombia, Korea, Botswana, and Poland.

The communications of good engineers are clear, precise, and logical. They are also expected to be founded on sound evidence-based knowledge. Yet, many decision makers complain about the communication skills of engineering graduates. It is ironic, then, that the statements of some those very decision makers in the midst of a crisis were not exemplary. Indeed, the media reported that members of the public found them confusing. Part of the dissatisfaction is related to the undefined terms used in their advice. For example, words such as: *rule*, *guidelines*, *regulations*, *law*, *best practice*, and *elective* were vague for practical applications by the public. Dictionary definitions don't help to understand the intended meanings in everyday practice, nor their legal implications. Lack of knowledge, misuse of terminology, mix up of technical and social understanding of words, and evasiveness are contributing factors.

A possible way to gain insight into the meaning of such words for daily practical application is to consider the opposite or the consequences. For example, the word *elective*, when its opposite is *emergency* (for example an elective surgery) does not mean optional, noncompulsory, or voluntary.

Guidelines and rules are not laws enforceable by the government. However, one should follow them as applicable for ones own good and for the good of the community at large. Perhaps knowledge and the rule of common sense (when possible) should help us all.

Let us look forward to better days to come with no confusion but with happiness, health, prosperity, and appreciation of engineers.

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