News&Notes

IEEE Education Society

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Call For Papers

Looking for a *Call For Papers* on a specific topic, or a one that is sponsored by a specific IEEE society? Try this IEEE Web search engine.

6th International Conference on Web-Based Education
March 14–16, 2007, Chamonix, France. Submission deadline: 15 October 2006

Upcoming Conferences

ICL2006 — Villach, Austria, September 27-29

FIE 2006 will be held in **San Diego, California USA from October 28-31, 2006** engineering education focus

FIE 2007 will be held in **Milwaukee, Wisconsin USA** 10-13 October 2007

FIE 2008 will be held in **Saratoga Springs, New York USA** specific dates will be forthcoming.

FIE 2009 will be held in **San Antonio, Texas USA** specific dates will be forthcoming.

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Education Society's Home Page
News&Notes archive
Send email to Editor, Rob Reilly (reilly@media.mit.edu)

Persian Gulf Conference a Huge Success

"…This year, the response to the Call for Papers was overwhelming." **Dr. Samir A. Al-Baiyat**, Technical Program Chair

The (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which is composed of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), conducted a hugely successful conference in Bahrain. The IEEE-GCC Conference has attracted some very high profile GCC Ministers such as: His Excellence (H.E.). **Abdulla Bin Hamad Al Attiyah**, Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Energy and Industry, Qatar; H.E. **Ali Saleh Al Saleh**, Minister for Commerce, Bahrain; H.E. **Maqbool Ali Sultan**, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Oman; H.E. **Abdullah Abdul Rahman Al Taweel**, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Kuwait; and, H.E. **Dr. Hashim bin Abdullah Al-Yamani**, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Saudi Arabia. Minister of State for Industry from the UAE.

Dr. Samir A. Al-Baiyat (above, right) indicated that this year the conference has taken a major step in satisfying the demands of the delegates from industry by arranging ten invited speakers to provide the perspective from the work place. In addition to that the technical program is interlaced with a number of keynote speeches. The conference is comprised of keynote speeches, invited talks and technical sessions. The program highlights not only the unity aspects of the modern computer and information technology but also it unifies the interests of academicians, and practicing engineers.

This year, the response to the Call for Papers was overwhelming. We received 175 papers out of which 102 papers were accepted. The final technical program includes 83 papers; some papers were not included because of inability of the speakers to present their work. The program is spread over 18 sessions. Four sessions are on power systems, four on wireless communications, one on engineering educations and one on e-systems and applications. The remaining sessions are on digital signal processing, antennas and propagation, and electronics and communications.

The papers in the program cover 9 tracks. The technical program committee comprising more than 50 international leaders in the field had the difficult task of critically reviewing the submitted papers. Each paper was assigned (at least) three reviewers chosen from the TPC and from academicians and practicing engineers. Above all, we thank all the authors who chose IEEE-GCC as the appropriate venue for publishing their research. It is their commitment that keeps the conference alive and exciting. We hope that all of you will find the conference technically rewarding, and will also find time to catch up with your colleagues.

Spanish EdSoc Chapter A Model of Excellence

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This publication is a service of the IEEE Education Society. It is published approximately bi-monthly. If you would like a news item or photo placed in *News&Notes*, send it to: **Rob Reilly**, Editor (r.reilly@ieee.org).
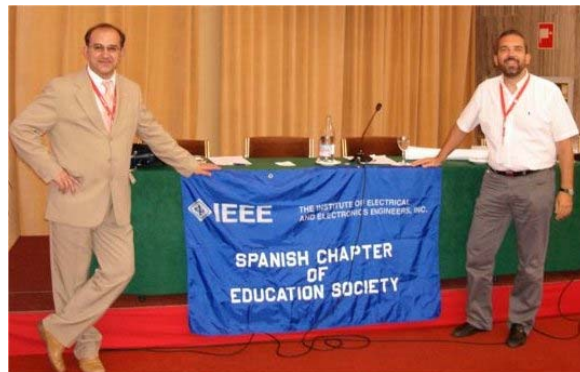
"*in Spain, we have a large number of top quality experts… our chapter showcases them!*" **Manuel Castro**, EdSoc AdCom Member, Spain EdSoc Chapter official

Immediate Past Chapter Chair **Professor Manuel Castro** (right in photo) is seen with Professor Francisco Jurado, the Chapter's Dissemination Coordinator, (left in photo), from the Universidad de Jaén, are shown after a chapter meeting that was conducted during the Melecon 2006 Conference in Malaga, Spain.

With its 154 members the IEEE-Spain EdSoc chapter is our largest chapter! In great measure the size and level of activity is due to the leadership of Manuel Castro. Professor Castro is the Vice Rector of Spain's National Distance Education University. He is also very active in the EdSoc, he is a member of the Administrative Committee and is a Vice Chair of the EdSoc's Chapters Committee.

The Spanish EdSoc Chapter has been highly active and is a model for all chapter activity. They have a regular newsletter, conduct highly informative technical meetings, which are available via teleconference, and foster the professional development of their members.

Note: IEEE banners are available for chapters and sections from the IEEE Chapter & Section Department/Recognition Product Orders; photos of specific products and order forms are clickable from that page.

IEEE EAB Launches Major Pre-University (K-12) Initiative

The IEEE's Educational Activities Board (EAB) in concert with IBM, TryScience, SAE International, JETS, and the Sloan Career Cornerstone Center has initiated a **MUST SEE** Web site. It is located at tryengineering.org. This site is devoted to answering questions about becoming an engineer. This site has lesson plans for pre-university (K-12) teachers, provides a locator for those searching for a college to attend, has a terrific 'ask an expert' mechanism and there are some outstanding educational games located there. TryEngineering.org is a resource for students (ages 8-18), their parents, their teachers and their school counselors.

Eta Kappa Nu Honor Society

ETA KAPPA NU
Electrical and Computer Engineering Honor Society

Eta Kappa Nu is a unique membership organization dedicated to encouraging and recognizing excellence in the electrical and computer engineering field. Members consist of students, alumni, and other professionals who have demonstrated exceptional academic and professional accomplishments. Eta Kappa Nu is a nonprofit, public-service organization comprising nearly 200 university chapters, a variety of committees, many active member volunteers, and thousands of student members.

The Eta Kappa Nu President (and a former EdSoc President) **David Irwin** and EdSoc Chapter Committee Chair, **Rob Reilly**, will be discussing the possibilities of expanding Eta Kappa Nu into all EdSoc chapters.

For more information go to the: Etta Kappa Nu Web site.

IMCL Conference in Jordan Attracts Top-Quality Experts

"*…this was a highly successful conference… We are looking forward to the 2007 event.*" **Professor A.Y. Al-Zoubi**, Conference Chair

The IMCL 2006 conference was a tremendous success. Conference Chair **Professor A.Y. Al-Zoubi** (above, left) of Princess Sumaya University for Technology in Amman, Jordan, stated that the IMCL conference promotes the development of m-learning in the Middle East, provides a forum for education and knowledge transfer, encourages implementation of mobile applications in teaching and learning, exposes students to latest ICT technologies, and forms a platform for sponsors to exhibit their technologies and products. In no small measure, the success of the conference is also due to having **Professor Michael Auer** (center photo), a world-renown engineering educator, as the conference program chair. Honored guests at the conference included: **Princess Sumaya** of Jordan (above right) and the Jordanian Minister of Higher Education, **Dr. Khalid Touqan** (standing to the Princesses right). Both Princess Sumaya and Minister Touqan made excellent presentations during the conference.

The 2007 conference is just now in the planning stages, but you can peruse the IMCL 2006 conference Web site to get a 'feel' for the conference.

Australia: Iouri Belski Leads Victorian Chapter

"…our first chapter meeting was memorable… the topics were very informative." **Iouri Belski**, Victorian EdSoc Chapter Chair

Professor Iouri Belski (left) of RMIT will receive the Carrick Citations Award from the Federal Ministry of Education for:

> *for the creation of innovative methodologies and imaginative resources which help students in enhancing thinking and problem-solving skills.*

The first chapter meeting featured presentations by **Peter Burton**, SECE, RMIT and **Iouri Belski**, SECE, RMIT.

Professor Burton's presentation was entitled: *Quasi Interactive Video*. His talk focused on the notion that Quasi Interactive Video material has proved to be a very effective teaching tool for first year electronic classes and production of other courses is well underway. Many students today are very visual and prefer to view material rather than read it, they love to watch TV. The videos follow a TV format and are produced in such a way as to give the viewer the feeling that he or she is actually in the room with the presenter. Professor Burton's talk discussed the effectiveness of the videos as a teaching tool for all students, but particularly first year and the international cohort. The potential for use in distance education and for marketing and retention is also considered. Finally the future direction of video production at RMIT is discussed, which the presenter passionately believes could transform university education, especially in first and second year.

Professor Belski's talk was entitled: *Four Screens Representation of Electronic Systems: Seven Years Experience*. His talk suggested that students of electronic circuit design often overlook important aspects of linear circuit performance. Their knowledge of the joint effects of steady-state and transient responses needs improved unification. Mathematical abstractions in transient analysis help students to perform routine algebraic processes, but can obscure engineering issues and trends. Our experience has shown that the various aspects of circuit response are learned more effectively when incorporated into a standard overall four-screen system representation. This representation gives, at the top, the factorized transfer function H(s), and beside it the pole-zero plot. Below these are the asymptotic Bode plots of magnitude and phase, with a graph of the time response to a unit step on the right. Focusing students' attention on this picture has been found to yield improvements in understanding and design capabilities. It also yields interesting surprises, which enliven the learning experience and it forms the basis for exploratory approaches. Questionnaire responses and test performances confirm the effectiveness of the four screens in improving learning.

Iouri introduced the Four-Screen Representation of electronic system to students of RMIT in 2000. During his talk Iouri will share the outcomes of its usage, student perceptions and achievements over the last seven years. New web-based Four-Screens simulator will also be introduced. For more information about 4Screens, go to: http://4screens.sece.rmit.edu.au

IEEE-USA Awards Deadline Approaches

…There is a short time before the deadline… but the awards may write themselves… let's not neglect recognition for deserving IEEE volunteers!

IEEE-USA's Awards and Recognition Committee is seeking nominations for its 2006 awards for professionalism, technical achievement, and literary contributions to public awareness and understanding of the engineering profession. The deadline for nominations is 31 July 2006. Please submit nomination forms to **Sandra Kim** at sandra.kim@ieee.org.

Details and forms for each award can be found at: http://bmsmail3.ieee.org:80/u/3246/132238

Serbia and Montenegro Chapter Goes to High Frequency

…since we formed our chapter we are flourishing as we interact with IEEE members in other chapters in our IEEE Section!" **Dr. Vladimir Petrovic**, Serbia & Montenegro Chapter Chair

On June 6, 2006 in the facilities of the Sava Congress Center in Belgrade, the Education Society Chapter and the Microwave Theory and Techniques Society (MTT-S) Chapter in the IEEE Serbia and Montenegro Section held a joint meeting on the topic of education and research in microwave engineering. In photo: **Professor Vladimir Petrovic** (left in photo), Chair of the EdSoc Chapter, and **Professor B. Milovanovic** (right in photo), Chair of the MTT-S Chapters of Serbia-Montenegro presiding the joint meeting.

The first technical presentation, "Software tools for microwave research, design and education: Microwave Office, Ansoft Designer and WIPL-D Microwave", held by D. Tosic and M. Potrebic from ETF Belgrade, gave a thorough and detailed analysis of the three state-of-the-art softwares for microwave engineering. The final emphasis was on the educational component of the softwares. It was stressed that the two most important educational components of these softwares are 1. extensive set of teaching examples based on the widely used textbooks and 2. a comprehensive review of microwave circuit basics.

The second technical presentation, held by **V. Markovic** from ELFAK Nis, was a presentation of a journal "Microwave Review", a publication of the Serbia and Montenegro IEEE MTT-S Chapter and local Society for MTT. The journal started in 1994 as a the Yugoslavia MTT Chapter Informer. Now, the Journal has an international editorial board and two issues a year. The last two issues dealt with biological effects of microwaves and application of neural networks in microwave CAD.

IEEE Engineers Interact with Pre-University Teachers

The IEEE Educator / Engineer Collaboration site promotes the exchange of ideas and information between precollege educators and engineers to enhance technological literacy. This site is sponsored by the IEEE's Education Activities Board.

Professor Andreas Pester Wins IEEE Foundation Grant for Students

"…*Professor Pester has tremendous talent and will share that with the students who attend the conference…!*" **Professor Michael Auer**, ICL Conference Chair

IEEE Foundation President, Dr. Richard Gowen, announced that the Foundation has awarded a US$4,000 grant to **Professor Andreas Pester** (left), Carinthia Technical Institute, Austria.

This project will provide a track for students from around the globe to share ideas on how education in the computer technology and engineering fields benefits society at the Interactive Computer Learning Conference. The student track attendees will have the opportunity to interact with 300 professionals from over 50 countries and allow for further exchange of information between students and professionals on an international level. The ICL conference will be held 27-29 September in Villach, Austria.

At the EdSoc's Administrative Committee Meeting in Chicago

"…*this AdCom meeting was particularly interesting… it made some progressive changes!*" **Daniel Litynski**, EdSoc President

"…*the Society is very healthy… we have approximately US$645,000 on-hand.*" **James Sluss**, EdSoc Treasurer

EdSoc Treasurer **James Sluss** (left), University of Oklahoma, reported that the Education Society's Net Worth is approximately US$645,000. He noted that the projected net income for 2007 is US$31,100. In addition to the line items that typically populate the budget, the Chapters Committee requested a budget of US$17,500, which was approved. Previously there was no expenditures for the Chapters. Since there has been a dramatic increase in EdSoc chapter activity, the AdCom approved a request by Chapter Committee Chair, **Rob Reilly**, to support the growing activity in the chapters.

The FIE Conference Steering Committee is now chaired by EdSoc leader, **Jim Roberts**, from the University of Kansas (left). FIE 2006 General Co-Chair **Susan Lord**, a professor at the University of San Diego and AdCom member (right) reported that there was a robust flow of papers for the conference and that the number of registrants was very encouraging. The Steering Committee announced the sites for the FIE conferences through 2010. The sites are: Saratoga, New York in 2008, San Antonio, Texas 2009, and Northern Virginia USA in 2010. Jim Roberts also reports that a number of issues exist, which the Steering Committee is dealing with; for example we need to deal with insurance due to multiple sponsors. Also under review is the process for handling and reviewing abstract and paper submissions.

Membership Committee Chair, **Hossein Mousavinezhad** (right), reported that membership grew more than 4%, the second highest growth among societies. There is an opportunity to double membership based on number of EE/CpE faculty, all of whom should be members of Education Society.

IEEE Transactions on Education Editor-in-Chief **David Conner** (right) reported that the publication is experiencing a low ebb in the number of submissions. Dave Conner has announced that he is looking forward to being relieved of his duties in July 2007. Given his tenure is coming to a close, the AdCom unanimously passed a Resolution of thanks to him for his excellent work for 6 years of service.

IEEE Region VI Director **Clint Andrews** (below, left) spoke to the Administrative Committee (AdCom) on the following major issues, which the IEEE Board of Directors is addressing:

1. Majority of growth is occurring outside the US but leadership is US-dominated.
2. IEEE finances are good – record surpluses. Some tension exists between publications and membership since most income now arises from publications.
3. The Board is considering how best to become more involved in China.
4. Revenue is centralized, primarily in electronic products. Expenses are also centralized. Resources need to be allocated to societies etc. The allocation algorithm has changed and smaller societies are seeing reduced resources. Some (not Ed Soc) are facing bankruptcy in the near future. The Ed Soc is seeing substantially increased charges for IEE infrastructure expenses. The question is how to avoid shifting the financial crisis from one set of societies to another.
5. Some basic questions are being asked: Should societies continue to exist? Should parts of IEEE be spun out?

While Director Clint Andrews' comments were appreciated, the AdCom was clearly unsettled by the fiscal implications of the IEEE's proposed changes in the levies to the EdSoc.

"*…we need a basis for our objection other than self interest.*" ***Joseph Hughes***, *EdSoc Vice President*

A lively discussion ensued on the increase in infrastructure charges. It was stated that doubling our assessment seems unreasonable and an explanation of the cause was requested. The AdCom wanted to know what we are paying for. **Rob Reilly** stated that one cause for the increase is the reduction in membership of many societies, particularly larger societies. **David Conner** stated that IEEE is becoming more complex, resulting in more overhead expenses and also that revenue growth is almost exclusively in electronic publications. The Infrastructure Oversight Committee (IOC) is examining the issues. **Joe Hughes** stated that we need a basis for our objection other than self interest. Other AdCom members were also concerned about the doubling of our assessment, since the the EdSoc has had an increase in membership over the past few years.

"*…details of the algorithm should be made transparent and available for the societies.*" **David Kerns**, Jr. Past Society President

David Kerns (above right) moved that Education Society express concern about the doubling the infrastructure costs, and that the details of the algorithm be made transparent and available for the societies. The motion passed after further discussion. Clint Andrews stated that the infrastructure cost allocation has been changed from one based on reserves to a flat amount, the same for all societies. Several AdCom members questioned the basis for this. It was also noted that it is now very difficult to predict year-to-year changes in the charge.

Chapters Committee Chair, **Rob Reilly** reported thirty (30) new chapters were created in 2005, which brings the total number of EdSoc chapter to 56! Reilly requested $18,500 for FY2007. $4,500 is for conference support, including conferences in Brazil and Europe. He also requested $7,750 is for Region 8 meeting and Chapter development expenses as well as $5,000 is for travel expenses for the chapter chair. The AdCom approved the Committee report, noting that the requested amounts would be in the budget.

"*…we need to aggressively move toward globalizing the Society through our chapters!*" **Melanie Ciampi**, EdSoc AdCom member

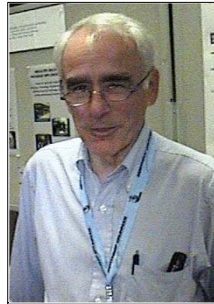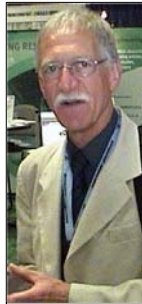"*…the EAB is currently putting a major effort into the K-12 arena.*" **Yvonne Pelham**, IEEE EAB staff member

The IEEE Education **Marilyn Catis** and **Yvonne Pelham** (left) from the IEEE Educational Activities Board (EAB) described the Expert Now and other continuing education programs provided by the IEEE's Educational Activities Board. A set of handouts was provided. Yvonne described activities on engineering at the elementary school level, including a call for Lessons on engineering to post on the IEEE web site.

As a result of this meeting and other conversations, the Chapters Committee and the EAB will work closely together to provide more services and support for members.

EdSoc Faces in the Crowd at ASEE's Annual Conference in Chicago

Jean-Pierre Steger (below left), IEEE-Switzerland Chapter Chair, and a professor at the Berner Fachhochschule, in Switzerland is a well-respected expert in his field and a frequent conference attendee. **Dave Voltmer** (second from left below), a dynamic leader in our field, has recently retired from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology; he was the General Co-Chair of FIE 2005 in Indianapolis. **Russ Meier** (third from left below), an AdCom member, a professor at the Milwaukee School of Engineering, and General Chair of FIE 2007 in Milwaukee, spent much of his time at the conference at the FIE 2007 booth and at the EdSoc's AdCom meeting. **Ed Jones** (rightmost photo below). Professor Jones is retired from Iowa State University. He has held virtually every office that exists in the Education Society. The IEEE Board of Directors recently approved the EdSoc's Meritorious Service being changed to bear Professor Jones' name—the Edwin C. Jones Jr. Meritorious Service Award.

EdSoc's RSS Feed: Its Cool, Try It!

It's a cool news and information feed.

This RSS feed was designed to provide one-stop-viewing of aggregated high-quality Podcasts for Education Society members. This feed focuses on the nexus among engineering education, learning pedagogy (*i.e.*, for constructivism, for model-based knowledge domains), and emerging technologies that facilitate education (*i.e.*, storytelling, education, engineering, Blogs, PODcasting, wikis, digital delivery of content).

Click here to view the feed… Try it… you'll love it.

Expert Now IEEE: Free Member Trial

The IEEE's Expert Now IEEE Program is a terrific new service. The best educational content presented at IEEE conferences and meetings has been collected and modularized in one hour long courses to enhance rapid, self-paced learning. Courses are developed by recognized experts in their fields and peer reviewed to ensure quality. Delivered right to your desktop, the highly-engaging instructional design includes assessments, audio and video files, diagrams, animations, and automatic place marking.

Pre-University Programs from the EAB

If you are interested in exploring the exciting world of information technology, computer science, electrical, and electronics engineering, you have come to the right place. Created for engineers, educators, parents, students, IEEE volunteers and the public, this site offers many valuable resources. Learn more about this program.

2007 IEEE EAC and TAC Call for Program Evaluators

The IEEE Educational Activities Board (EAB) Seeks Industry Professionals to Serve as Program Evaluators for Accreditation Activities.

The IEEE Educational Activities Board (EAB) seeks qualified professionals from industry, government and academic sectors to serve as Program Evaluators to assist in accrediting Engineering and Engineering Technology Programs at USA colleges for the Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC) and the Technology Accreditation Commission (TAC) of ABET, Inc.

Service as a program evaluator provides the opportunity for members of the profession to contribute to the achievement of high quality educational standards of engineering and engineering technology programs.

IEEE evaluator candidates are required for the following ABET-accredited programs:

- Computer Engineering and Computer Engineering Technology
- Electrical Engineering and Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technology
- Electro-Mechanical Engineering Technology
- Information Engineering Technology
- Telecommunications Engineering Technology

Participation in the accreditation process by industry professionals will ensure that the requirements of industry are addressed.

Applications are due to the IEEE Accreditation Administrator by 15 November 2006 for the 2007-2008 academic year. Applications are reviewed during the February 2007 IEEE meetings. Accepted or declined notification will be sent to the applicants by 1 March 2007.

Nomination and Application forms are available at:

for people interested in engineering and

for those interested in engineering technology.

To submit nominations and applications or request information contact Carolyn Solimine at +1 732 562-5484 or c.solimine@ieee.org or Mailto:eab-accred@ieee.org.

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For more information, pricing, to view demos of the software, and to download fully functional trial software, go to: Impatica's Web site.

Be Listed in IEEE Technical Experts Guide for Journalists

The IEEE Technical Experts Guide is a resource for journalists and other media professionals that provides multi-disciplinary scientific and engineering sources on more than 500 technical topics.

The guide has an alphabetical list of entries and contact information for IEEE experts and others in industry, government and academia who are qualified to answer questions or make referrals on a particular subject area.

For more information see: IEEE Technical Experts Guide for Journalists.

To see a list of areas that the IEEE views as Education Society related (*n.b.*, well "consumer electronics" seems to be outside our field of interest, but the others are relevant). click here

If you would like to be listed as an expert contact for any journalists that may have inquiries, contact: IEEE Media Relations staff: Debra Schiff, USA +1 732 562 5376 or Marsha Longshore, USA +1 732 562 6824

International Symposium on Quality Electronic Design

The International Symposium on Quality Electronic Design (ISQED), is a premier Design & Design Automation conference, aimed at bridging the gap between and integration of, electronic design tools and processes, integrated circuit technologies, processes & manufacturing, to achieve design quality. ISQED is the pioneer and leading conference dealing with design for manufacturability and quality issues front-to-back. The conference provides a forum to present and exchange ideas and to promote the research, development, and application of design techniques & methods, design processes, and EDA design methodologies and tools that address issues which impact the quality of the realization of designs into physical integrated circuits. The conference attendees are primarily designers of the VLSI circuits & systems (IP & SoC), those involved in the research, development, and application of EDA/CAD Tools & design flows, process/device technologists, and semiconductor manufacturing specialists including equipment vendors. ISQED emphasizes a holistic approach toward design quality and intends to highlight and accelerate cooperation among the IC Design, EDA, Semiconductor Process Technology and Manufacturing communities.

- Paper Submission Deadline: September 30, 2006
- Acceptance Notifications: November 23, 2006
- Final Camera-Ready paper: January 3, 2007

The International Journal of Modern Engineering is Online

The International Journal of Modern Engineering (IJME) is a highly-selective, peer-reviewed journal covering topics that appeal to a broad readership of all branches of engineering, engineering technology, and other related fields.

The IJME is steered by a distinguished board of directors and is supported by an international review board consisting of prominent individuals representing many well-known universities, colleges, and corporations in the United States and abroad.

To maintain a high-quality journal, manuscripts that appear in the IJME Articles section have been subjected to a rigorous review process. This includes blind reviews by three or more members of the international editorial review board, followed by a detailed review by the IJME editors.