

Proceedings
Enhancement of the Global Perspective for
Engineering Students by Providing an
International Experience

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Foreword

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In today's world it is increasingly important for engineers to have a global perspective of the practice of engineering and to understand its societal impact. Nevertheless, recent statistics indicate that less than one percent of engineering students in the United States participate in programs that provide an international experience as part of the educational process.

There are many changes in progress to make the various European educational systems more compatible with each other in order to promote mobility of students and professionals.

A joint meeting sponsored by Engineering Conference International and the Management Committee of E4 (Enhancing European Engineering Education) of the SOCRATES II Thematic Network was held in Tomar, Portugal, April 6 – 11, 2003.

Topics discussed included:

- Rationale and Need for a Global Perspective;**
- Opportunities for an International Experience;**
- Obstacles;**
- Progress.**

The conference is one of the series sponsored by the Engineering Conferences International, Inc., the successor program to the United Engineering Foundation Conferences. The conference was co-sponsored by The Center for Materials Processing, University of Tennessee, The Cooper Union, the Management Committee of E4, and Ordem dos Engenheiros (Portugal). The Participants included representatives of educational institutions, multi-national industrial firms and professional organizations from the United States, Canada, Mexico, Europe and Japan.

The conference's success was greatly aided by the logistical support provided by Ms. Daria Sapienza, The Cooper Union, Ms. Jewell Johnson and Miss Lorissa Hatcher, Center for Materials Processing, The University of Tennessee. Ms. Barbara K. Hickernell and Mr. Kevin Korpics of the Engineering Conferences International provided support and guidance. Dr. Herman Bieber served as technical liaison with ECI during the planning and as the on-site representative. Special thanks are extended to Eng. Antonio Salgado de Barros of the Ordem dos Engenheiros for invaluable help.

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