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The 20th Annual Conference for the Australasian Association for Engineering Education

6-9 December 2009 ■ The University of Adelaide, Adelaide, South Australia







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All papers accepted for publication in the Proceedings of the 20th Annual Conference for the Australasian Association for Engineering Education were submitted as full papers and were double blind peer reviewed. Authors were given the opportunity to amend their paper in light of these reviews before the decision to accept and publish the paper was made. This process of reviewing is in accord with the criteria set by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) of the Australian Government for published papers. Author: Australasian Association for Engineering Education Conference (20th:2009). Editors: Dr Colin Kestell, Dr Steven Grainger, Professor John Cheung. Published in Australia by: The School of Mechanical Engineering, The University of Adelaide, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia. ISBN 1 876346 59 0. Copyright © 2009 Australasian Association for Engineering Education. These proceedings are copyright. Apart from fair dealing for the purpose of private study, research, criticism or review as permitted under the Copyright Act, no part may be reproduced by any process without the written permission of the publisher. Responsibility for the contents of the articles rests upon the authors and not the publisher. Data presented and conclusions drawn by the authors are for information only and not for use without independent substantiating investigations on the part of the potential user. For technical support please contact Causal Productions (info@causalproductions.com).

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Australasian Association for Engineering Education

Welcome

Welcome to the website of the Australasian Association for Engineering Education. AAEE (a technical society of Engineers Australia) is a professional association of academics, support staff, postgraduate students, librarians, professional engineers, and employers who all have vested interests in fostering excellence and innovation in engineering education.



The general mission of AAEE is to improve the quality, relevance and performance of engineering education in Australasia. More specifically, the objectives of the Association are to:

- Quantify and make more visible within Australasia the increasing need for specific advanced engineering skills.
- Increase the participation rates of high school leavers in engineering education and training, especially of women and non-traditional sources of students.
- Promote the development and use of new teaching techniques and tools and promote measurement of teaching effectiveness.
- Provide assistance to the engineering educators, especially to the new members of the teaching staff.
- Promote the professional development of engineering educators.
- Make the Association the focal point for information on all aspects of engineering education within Australasia.
- Develop co-sponsorship of the Association by other engineering professional institutions and associations in Australasia.
- Develop global links with similarly minded organisations in other countries.

The 2010 Conference

This year our annual conference will be held at UTS in Sydney from the 5th to the 8th of December. In honour of it being our 21st annual conference, the theme will be "Past, Present, Future - the 'keys' to engineering education research and practice".

Our conference has been growing from strength to strength in recent years, and we are keen to see this trend continue by expanding not only our participant numbers, but also the range and value of the activities that we offer at the conference.

Paper submissions are now open, with a submission deadline of June 20th. To assist in our planning efforts, we are asking that you send us an abstract by May 31st so that we can start to arrange possible session groupings.

Full details are available at the conference website <http://www.aeee2010.com.au> We encourage you all to visit the site, and to encourage your colleagues - particularly those new to engineering education research and scholarship - to do so as well.

We look forward to seeing you all at the conference.

For those of you who like reminders of deadlines like this, download this [iCalendar file](#) - open it, and save it into Outlook to remind you of when full papers are due.
