

## PREFACE TO THE PROCEEDINGS

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Understanding how to support teaching and learning, and the learning needs of the next generation of learners, is important for students' intellectual development and their readiness to contribute to a thriving economy upon graduation. In the context of student-centered instructional models, the proliferation of new technologies and diminishing institutional budgets, there is a need for more focussed dialogue concerning which educational technologies best support student learning, and are sensitive to the different needs of students in academic, trades, or vocational programs across the sector supporting lifelong learning "from womb to tomb." To this end, the International Conference on Information Communication Technologies in Education (ICICTE) has met each year since 2000 to discuss the appropriate use of technology in education, seeking to address the many challenges and new directions presented by technological innovations in educational settings.

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Scientific Committee, to welcome all presenters and participants to the 16<sup>th</sup> annual conference where we gather an international community of scholars and practitioners. The ICICTE family has grown over the years, and each year we build on the success of years past, honoring the past, living in the present, and looking toward the future. Our gathering this year on Rhodes will bring fond memories to many who have attended previous conferences here, but is also certain to facilitate meaningful dialogue between delegates new and old. ICICTE strives to maintain a venue that fosters a community of scholarship that allows knowledge dissemination, information exchange, and lasting relationships to develop. The conference and social program provide ample opportunity to renew old acquaintances, and spawn new ideas and collaborations. Greece provides a perfect backdrop for this activity, owing its contribution to ancient scholastic activity.

With the continued support of the indefatigable Nancy Pyrini, the Conference Director, the conference continues to support new and seasoned scholars, first time and returning delegates, sustaining a global learning community with deep and stable roots in educational and scientific excellence. The legacy of the conference is captured here within these *Proceedings*. It will be immediately apparent the amount of work that went into creating a record of our scholarly activity at the conference. As with other years I must acknowledge those who have worked tirelessly in this regard. This includes those on the Scientific Committee who review multiple proposals multiple times, to the skillful editing and formatting by Dr. Linda Morris. The masterful work of Dr. Gorg Malia then assembles the papers into a collected *Proceedings* that captures the essence of the conference itself.

As in years past, this conference has been successfully organised by Southampton Solent University (UK), represented by Dr. Chris Barlow, in collaboration with the Justice Institute of British Columbia (Canada), represented by myself. We are aided and abetted by Dr. Costas Tsolakidis of the University of the Aegean, George Sarrigeorgiou, and Marie Louise Kold, among others.

Whether you have joined us for the first or sixteenth time, or are reading these *Proceedings* from afar long after the conference has concluded, we urge you to reach out to the presenters with whose papers you find resonance. We look forward to your active participation in our learning community and hope to see you at the conference next year.