

EDITOR'S NOTE

Dr. Vladimir Uskov*

This Special Issue of the ATL journal contains eight selected best papers of the 4th International Conference on Web-Based Education (WBE-2005), organized and sponsored by the International Association of Science and Technology for Development (IASTED) and held February 21–23, 2005, at Grindelwald, Switzerland. As with the three previous WBE conferences, this WBE-2005 professional meeting provided an excellent opportunity for faculty, scholars, administrators, and practitioners to meet well-known experts from all over the world and to discuss innovative ideas, results of research, and best practices on various topics of Web-based education and training, innovative Web-based teaching and learning technologies, state-of-the-art Web-based communication technologies, collaborative learning, various issues of Web-based testing and assessment, innovative educational hardware and software applications for WBE, national and international projects in the WBE area, and many other related issues.

We would like to thank many national and international organizations that made WBE-2005 conference a great success, specifically, national organizations such as Bradley University and Midstate College (USA) and international organizations such as IASTED, the IEEE Learning Technology Technical Committee (IEEE LTTC), the International Society for Engineering Education (IGIP), the Japanese Society for Information and System in Education, the Council of Researches in Education and Sciences (Brazil), the Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIED), the International Academy of Open Education (IAOE) in Russia, the Brazilian Association on Open and Distance Education (ABED), and the National University Telecommunications Network (NUTN).

The WBE-2005 conference continued to be highly competitive and very well perceived by the international community of researchers, educators, and practitioners in the WBE area, attracting excellent contributions and active participation. In 2005, more than 200 papers from 39 countries were submitted, from which 151 have been accepted from 27 countries (on average 3.8 accepted papers per country—this fact proves once again the truly international nature of WBE annual conferences).

Each paper was reviewed by several members of the WBE-2005 International Program Committee (IPC), comprised of 57 members from 28 countries. We believe that,

due to all these efforts, high quality contributions have been presented during the WBE-2005 conference.

This Special Issue contains the eight selected WBE-2005 papers including:

- 1) The *WBE-2005 Keynote Paper* by Dr. Toshio Okamoto, President of the Japanese Society for Information and System in Education (JSISE) and professor at the University of Electro-Communications, Tokyo, Japan;
- 2) The *WBE-2005 Invited Paper* by Dr. Maia Wentland-Forte, the Vice-President of the national Swiss Virtual Campus project and Vice-Rector of the University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland;
- 3) The winner of the “*WBE-2005 Best Paper*” Award; this paper was presented by Mr. Miika Lehtonen from Finland;
- 4) The *WBE-2005 Best Ph.D. Student Paper* that was presented by Mr. Charles Miller, USA.; this paper is a winner of The Fourth International Competition of Ph.D. Students performing research in the Web-Based Education area;
- 5) A paper about the *WBE-2005 Best Software System* by Dr. Mark Pullen and Ms. Priscilla McAndrews; this paper is a winner of The First International Competition of Non-Commercial Software Systems, Tools, and Products for Web-Based Education.

The other three papers have been selected by IPC member as the finalists of the “WBE-2005 Best Paper” Award.

In conclusion, I would like to thank IASTED and all collaborating organizations for wonderful organization of the WBE-2005 international conference, all contributing authors for their excellent research papers, and ACTA Press for its willingness to publish this Special Issue of the International Journal on Advanced Technology for Learning (ATL) containing eight outstanding papers presented at the WBE-2005 conference.

Finally, it is my great pleasure to invite readers of this Special Issue to submit their papers for and/or to attend the 5th IASTED International Conference on Computers and Advanced Technology in Education (WBE-2006) to be held in January 2006 in one of the most beautiful places in the world—Puerto Vallarta, Mexico at the Sheraton Hotel and Convention Center. For details on the WBE-2006 international conference, please visit the WBE-2006 conference web site available at <http://www.iasted.com>.

Dr. Vladimir Uskov, Chair
WBE-2005 International Conference

* Editor-in-Chief, International Journal on Advanced Technology for Learning (ATL), and Chair, WBE-2005 International Conference; e-mail: uskov@bradley.edu