

## EDITORIAL

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Adlai Stephenson was fond of saying that "An editor is someone who separates the wheat from the chaff and then prints the chaff." While this was originally aimed at newspaper editors, it is sometimes extended to include editors at large. We have gone to great lengths to avoid the possibility that it will include us as well, by securing the services of an editorial board comprising some of the leading academics of today and tomorrow, an international panel representing nine different countries and the major branches of our discipline. Together with the staff of UTS they have reviewed every paper offered to us, a large number of contributions on a wide range of subjects. They have recommended the best and suggested ways in which they could be further improved.

Like the editorial board, the contributors represent the truly international nature of our discipline and the contributions cover an even wider range of countries and topics than it has been possible to include in this issue. A journal can probably survive well without editors and referees, but not without good authors, and we have been lucky in terms of both quality and diversity of interests. We hope that we will continue to enjoy their support and that their example will inspire others to share their research with us.

We trust that you will find the papers selected for inclusion in this issue of interest, and we think they make, collectively, a worthy addition to the body of knowledge related to construction economics and building; in other words, pure 'wheat' with no 'chaff'.

The topic areas covered in the selected papers are varied, and range from a discussion of the experiences of a group of academics using a problem-based learning approach to teaching construction to some detailed statistical analysis and modelling of the impact of contractor performance on levels of client satisfaction. The end result is a collection of papers that address a number of fundamental concerns that are influencing many aspects of our work in the realisation of construction projects worldwide in the early part of the new millennium including health and safety (a prime concern in the recent UK report, *Accelerating Change*), expansion into globalised markets, the bundling of goods and services in the construction industry, the balancing of work and family, and some more sternly practical considerations such as the use of capital budgeting techniques and the criteria used in selecting project procurement systems.

Our thanks must go to a number of people: the Editorial Board plus the other referees (all on the staff at UTS) who donated their time and expertise, the authors who accepted our decisions and suggestions with good grace, and Sally Beech, who has done a marvellous job in putting the final journal together.

We look forward to our readers' response to this issue and to completing our commission by producing, in due course, the second issue for 2002.

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Goran Runeson

Rick Best

July 2001