
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Corrado Io Storto is an Associate Professor in Economics and Engineering Management at the University of Naples Federico II (Italy) where he teaches Business Management and Project and Innovation Management. He holds a Laurea in Aeronautical Engineering, an MBA and a PhD in Science of Industrial Innovation. His research and professional interests include technology transfer, innovation and knowledge management, project risk management, and project valuation, and on these topics he has published several papers in international journals and conference proceedings. He is a member of AiIG, IEEE, EFA, AIV, and is the Chair of the Italian Chapter of the IEEE-Technology Management Council.

During the past 20 years the scope and complexity of engineering work and responsibilities have dramatically changed, and in the modern companies engineers perform many management activities. The increased competition in the marketplace and the need to improve productivity in the manufacturing and service environments have put an emphasis on a more effective management of technical functions of a company. In the same time, searching for higher flexibility and efficiency rates, a great number of companies have reduced the numbers and levels of management positions, leaving more decision-making power to teams at the working level, moving to management responsibilities many engineers at some point in their professional careers, thus combining engineering and management jobs.

The *International Journal of Engineering Management and Economics (IJEME)* was launched with the aim to be an international multidisciplinary forum to exchange ideas, experiences, theories, information and knowledge among academic scholars and practitioners working in the field of engineering management and economics. *IJEME* is a refereed and authoritative journal that publishes original, empirical and review papers, technical reports, case studies, conference reports, management reports, book reviews, notes, commentaries.

I am very pleased now to introduce the inaugural issue of the *International Journal of Engineering Management and Economics*.

I greatly appreciate the Inderscience Publishers' technical and publication staff for their assistance in publishing this journal. In particular, I am grateful to Dr. M.A. Dorgham, Mr. Jim Corlett, Ms. Sue O'Mara and Ms. Ann Hudson for their professional support throughout the launch of this journal. I also would like to thank all the academic scholars and practitioners who accepted to serve as members of the Editorial Board. Finally, I want to thank all contributing authors and referees of this issue and of future issues who, together with the readers, will surely make the *IJEME* a success.

This issue is dedicated to Lelio Raffa, a young colleague who left us suddenly at the beginning of his promising academic career as a researcher in the engineering management field.