



**Jean Berlamont**  
*President EUCEET Association*  
*Chairman of the Scientific Committee*

*Dear participant,*

*Welcome to the first conference organized by the EUCEET association. Through the four consecutive EU supported projects between 1998 and 2010, the EUCEET partners have acquired considerable expertise in civil engineering education and training. The EUCEET association wants to continue along the same track and contribute to the implementation of new learning methods and the development of new and better educational programs in civil engineering, taking into account the changing environment and boundary conditions.*

*The implementation of the Bologna, two-tier track has caused in many places profound changes in the (traditional) curricula, many of which have not yet reached a new equilibrium state. The role of research in universities and companies becomes more prominent, which implies the formation of researchers through adequate doctoral programs and relevant research. New subjects as there are: energy conservation, durability, limited use of natural resources, respect for the environment, cost effectiveness, effects of global climate change, ... emerge and should find their way into the curricula, courses and project work.*

*Construction companies face huge challenges in the globalizing economy and open market. High quality work and the introduction of innovative technologies and techniques are indispensable in a competitive environment. Therefore the link between construction companies and higher education institutions*

## **Preface**

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*becomes more important since companies need relevant research and competent and innovative civil engineers.*

*To respond to these changes, EUCEET has chosen as the theme for this conference “New trends and challenges in civil engineering education”. We received a good number of interesting and qualitative papers and found enthusiastic key note lecturers, who are acknowledged specialists in their fields. Therefore, we hope that you will find this conference interesting and rewarding and that it may inspire you in your educational task at your own institution.*

*We hope that this first EUCEET conference may be the first one of a successful series of conferences dedicated to civil engineering education.*