



Dear Readers,

Again this year we present Brazil on our covers. This is due to the extraordinary activity of the Brazilian scientific society of mechanical and manufacturing engineers. The 21st International Congress of Mechanical Engineering COBEM will be held close to the Atlantic Ocean at Natal city in the northeast of Brazil from 24th to 28th October 2011. Held every two years, since 1971, COBEM is the most important event in the field of Mechanical Sciences and Engineering in all Latin America. COBEM reached its international status in the year of 2001.

Natal (in English, Nativity or Christmas) is the capital and the largest city of Rio Grande do Norte (a photo in the city centre can be seen on the cover), a north-eastern state in Brazil and it is the capital of the state which out of all Brazilian states is the closest to Europe. In Brazil, a great attention is paid now to the development of the poorest northern states. The state of the universities including the development of technical infrastructure and research of the Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte (UFRN) formally established on 18th December 1960 and at present included among the best 25 universities in Latin America is very impressive. The Newton Navarro Bridge, which can be seen in the next small photo is also an example of economic development because it is one of the highest bridges in Brazil and has over a gorgeous sunset seen from Potengi River. Due to the developing tourism in the Natal and a few dozen or so kilometres of beaches in the city and its surroundings it was decided to build a new airport in Natal which will be the biggest airport in South America and 8th biggest in the world and will be specifically designed to be able to cater for the new Airbus A-380 planes. In the next photo the Morro do Careca (English – Bald Hill), which is a large dune located in the city of Natal in Brazil, a height of 120 metres, with a margin determined by vegetation, located in the extreme south of Ponta Negra beach, the most famous one in Natal, can be seen. The north-eastern tip of South America, Cabo São Roque, 32 km to the north of Natal and the closest point to Europe from Latin America, was first visited by European navigators in 1501, in the 1501-1502 Portuguese expedition led by Amerigo Vespucci, who named the spot after the saint of the day. Albuquerque Maranhão began on 6th January 1598, the construction of the Fort of the Holy Kings or of the Magi-Kings (presented in one of small photos), named after the Three Wise Men, honoured in the Christian feast of the Epiphany, celebrated on that day. The city full of tourist attractions and so great scenic beauty and impressive economic and scientific achievements will be certainly a good venue for COBEM/2011 Congress. We wish the delegates fully successful debates.

This issue of the Journal AMME, however, has a special meaning. Next month the next Materials, Computer Science and Nanotechnological Conference KOMIN, dedicated to one of the most outstanding professors of the Institute of Engineering Materials and Biomaterials of the Silesian University of Technology, who is also a representative of the co-publishing Institutions of this Journal, Professor Ryszard Nowosielski – WAMME Fellow – on the occasion of the 65th Anniversary of his Birthday will take place. This issue contains specially selected papers worked out by him in collaboration with his alumni and dedicating their work to him, as well as a monographic paper worked out by me as a kind of a gift on this occasion, because a special friendship has joined me with the dignified Jubilarian for over 46 years, since we have started our studies and since then we have been also strictly working and cooperating professionally.

I am deeply convinced that reading these papers will be interesting to P.T. Readers. As usual we also invite other P.T. Authors to present their works for publication in subsequent issues of the Journal AMME.

Gliwice, in September 2011

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President of the WAMME
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