

Editorial

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The International Organization for Science and Technology Education (IOSTE) aims to encourage informed debate, reflection and research on science and technology education, having in mind to encourage the peaceful and ethical use of science and technology in the service of humankind. With earlier origins in 1979 at the Symposium on World Trends in Science Education, in Halifax (Canada), IOSTE was definitely established as a formal organization in 1984 in Brisbane (Australia) with members from over sixty countries. Today, IOSTE is recognized by UNESCO as a non-governmental organization and has members from about eighty countries (<http://www.ioste.org/>).

The IOSTE Symposium occurs every two years in a different country. The latest event was organized by the Research Centre on Child Studies, of the University of Minho (CIEC-UM), in Braga (Northern region of Portugal): “**IOSTE Symposium - Science and Technology Education for a Peaceful and Equitable World**”, 11-16 July 2016 (<http://www.eventos.ciec-uminho.org/ioste2016/>).

This XVII IOSTE Symposium joined 231 participants coming from 29 countries, being the large majority from Brazil (71 participants), followed by the organizing country, Portugal (27), Korea (23), Turkey (13), Sweden (12) Iran (11), Australia (10), Japan (8), Estonia (6), Norway (5), Poland (5), USA (5), France (4), South Africa (4),

Spain (4), Algeria (3), Denmark (3), Malaysia (3), Belgium (2), Czech Republic (2), Latvia (2), Canada (1), Finland (1), India (1), Ireland (1), Italy (1), Lithuania (1), New Zealand (1), UK (1).

The authors of 303 works presented at the XVII IOSTE Symposium were invited to submit a full paper of their communications. Of the 79 received papers, 66 were accepted for the proceedings of this special issue of the journal *Conexão Ciência*.

The whole preparation of this XVII IOSTE Symposium required a large number of people involved in the local organization and in the evaluation / acceptance of submitted proposals and of submitted full papers. To all these colleagues I wish to thank for their enthusiastic involvement, always being very effective and making positive suggestions. In particular, I wish to thank the former IOSTE board Chair, Hae-Ae Seo, and Treasurer, Maria André, for their collaboration in the event organization and the present IOSTE board Chair, Gillian Kidman, for her intense collaboration in the process of full papers preparation for the XVII IOSTE Symposium proceedings.

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