

Editorial

Networking research, development and innovation in agricultural engineering through IAEJ

Dear Readers and Colleagues:

We are happy to witness the nineteenth anniversary of International Agricultural Engineering Journal (IAEJ) launched in Asian Institute of Technology in 1992. In the past, IAEJ has been published by the Asian Association for Agricultural Engineering (AAAE) as its official publication, with ISSN 0858-2114 originally registered in Thailand. We are proud of the history and success of IAEJ. Thank all the former editors and AAAE leaders for dedicating themselves to the service of this journal.

The AAAE Secretariat and the administration of IAEJ have been transferred to the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Mechanization Sciences (CAAMS) in Beijing, China. Professor Li Shujun, the President of the AAAE and Executive President of the CAAMS, is the new Editor-in-chief, and Dr. Wang Yingkuan has been appointed as the Executive Editor-in-chief. We are greatly honored to serve and are looking forward to working with all of you. Your participation in promoting the journal will be warmly welcomed and greatly appreciated.

Although IAEJ has been published for 19 years and has been a valuable source of information for agricultural engineers in Asia and around the world, the lack of an official website, therefore inability to receive online submissions and to conduct peer reviews online is a serious deficiency. Other issues are limited distribution, low visibility, accessibility and impact. These issues need immediate solution. In order to expand the impact of IAEJ, to communicate research achievements and network professionals in agricultural and biological engineering, we will spare no efforts in improving IAEJ. Here are some proposals for improving and promoting the IAEJ:

First, Set up IAEJ website

We will set up the IAEJ website soon using an independent international domain. A detailed journal introduction, guidelines for authors, reviewers and editors will be provided. Expanding the reviewer databases to provide strong and timely support for peer review is also an important task for enhancing the journal.

Second, Conduct online submission and review

This is absolutely necessary and requires immediate action. We suggest adopting the Open Journal System (OJS). It is free and easy to use and maintain. The OJS will expand information about IAEJ and will also provide a portal for on line submissions and online review, which will greatly streamline the submission and review process and also improve the ability of both authors and editors to track the status of individual manuscripts.

Third, Convert to Open Access, realizing online publication and reading

The IAEJ is now only a print journal. Accessibility of online journals has changed the ways of distributing literature. There may be some concern about open access to the full contents of the IAEJ. However, there are many models for open access, such as delayed open access, which may not necessarily affect the subscription. Moreover, better ways can be found to collect revenues to offset the loss of subscription fees. In order to implement online publication, an eISSN number and Digital Object Identifier (DOI) will be needed.

Fourth, Strive to be included in Thomson ISI's Web of Science

We can all be proud that IAEJ has been covered by a number of famous indexing databases including EI Compendex. However, this is not good enough to meet the demand of the scholarly community. We must work hard to try for inclusion in Thomson ISI's Web of Science, Science Citation Index (SCI), etc. Active communication with all indexing databases will be maintained. Certainly, we must continuously improve the quality of the journal. Some changes will be needed to meet the criteria of the SCI indexing databases.

Fifth, Increase the accessibility, visibility and impact of future IAEJ website

We will add a direct hyperlink to IAEJ in AAAE website, which can directly navigate to the journal website. We will also try to exchange interlinks with other related journals. After publishing each issue, we will use OJS to send an Article Alert to all the registered users of the journal. All these measures will greatly increase the accessibility and visibility of IAEJ.

Sixth, Build a strong team and teamwork culture

In order to strengthen the editorial team and also share the workload, we will invite more experts to serve as the section editors on a volunteer basis. We also plan to appoint more professional editorial staff, including Science editors, English editors and Copy editors, full time or part-time. Moreover, all kinds of training such as technical writing, editing, reviewing, proofreading for authors, reviewers and in-house editors will be provided. All those editors will make concerted efforts in promoting IAEJ. A strong team of editors and a good teamwork culture will provide an intellectual support to the journal.

Seventh, Organize an International Editorial Board

In order to promote the journal by joint efforts together with experts around the world, we will organize an international editorial board of IAEJ Journal. An international editorial board will attract worldwide participation and support.

Eighth, Invite and solicit high quality papers

Author initiated submissions are not enough for a good journal. We cannot sit and wait only for free submissions. Many of these manuscripts are very specific with narrowly defined boundaries. This is as it should be, but we will plan to invite more high-quality papers, some of which are broader in scope and deal partially with the positive impact on people, society in general.

Ninth, Focus on marketing and dissemination

IAEJ has established a good base. We should strengthen the marketing and dissemination to increase revenue for further development of the journal. Finally, we will try to make IAEJ to attain a sustainable development through mass production and multiple operations.

Before the setup of online submission, all manuscripts and other correspondence should be directed to Dr. Wang Yingkuan, Executive Editor-in-Chief, through the e-mail: iaejeditor@gmail.com.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Dr. Li Shujun
Editor-in-chief

Sincerely,



Dr. Wang Yingkuan
Executive Editor-in-chief