
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Wang Xiaohua is a Professor at the College of Engineering, Nanjing Agriculture University, China. His fields of interest include energy supply and consumption, and exploitation of renewable energy in rural areas of developing countries. He has published more than 30 academic papers on energy and environment in first class refereed international English journals. As a technical consultant, he has participated in the Integrated Rural Energies Development Program in the Seventh, Eighth and Ninth FYP (Five Year Plans). *Energy – the International Journal* invited him to be a referee to evaluate manuscripts for the journal.

I am pleased to bring you this Special Issue of the *International Journal of Global Energy Issues* on energy and renewable energy with economic development in developing countries. I was very happy to accept the invitation of Editor-in-Chief Dr Mohammed A. Dorgham in February 2003 and become Guest Editor for this Special Issue. After many months of effort by individual authors, reviewers, the journal's editorial team and staff, we now have this issue. I wish to thank Prof. Wu Xianggan for leading me to rural and renewable energy research, and also thank Prof. Pan Junzheng and Prof. Ji Changying for their help.

Energy and environmental problems with economic development in developing countries is becoming a key issue, as the complexity of technological and human systems is steadily increasing. Energy is the physical foundation and the driving force of agricultural modernisation and sustainable rural economic and social development. Renewable energy development is related to the upgrading of people's living standards, the improvement of the ecological environment and the sustainable development of the rural economy.

A wide-ranging series of papers has been selected to reflect the issues, challenges and interests of policy makers in this area. Topics covered in this special issue include energy issues with economic development; energy policy and planning in developing countries; development of renewable energy and energy for sustainable development; energy conservation and management; energy used and energy conservation in agriculture; and household energy consumption in developing countries.

Various approaches are used to address the rural energy issues and renewable energy development, ranging from empirical studies to spatial, cost benefit analysis and artificial neural network models. Regardless of the dissimilitude between the issues addressed and approaches used by the authors, the underlying principle in the papers compiled in this Special Issue is undeniably that of rural energy and renewable energy with economic development in developing countries.

I dare hope that this Special Issue of the journal will improve readers' understanding of the challenges faced by rural energy and renewable energy practitioners, academics and policy makers in developing countries, and that it will generate increased interest and readership of the *International Journal of Global Energy Issues*.