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## Editorial

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**Biographical notes:** Ahmed Faheem Zobaa received BSc (hons.), MSc and PhD degrees in Electrical Power and Machines from the Faculty of Engineering at Cairo University, Egypt, in 1992, 1997, and 2002. Currently, he is Assistant Professor in the Department of Electrical Power and Machines, Faculty of Engineering, Cairo University. He served the same institution as Instructor from 1992 to 1997 and as Teaching Assistant from 1997–2002. His areas of research include harmonics, compensation of reactive power, power quality, photovoltaics, wind energy, education, and distance learning. He is Editorial Board Member for *Electrical Power Quality and Utilisation Journal*, *Electric Power Components and Systems Journal*, *International Journal of Emerging Electric Power Systems*, and *International Journal of Computational Intelligence*. He is Editor for *IEEE Power Engineering Letters* and *IEEE Transactions on Energy Conversion*. Also, he is Associate Editor for *IEEE Transactions on Industrial Electronics*, *International Journal of Power and Energy Systems*, *International Journal on Modelling and Simulation*, *International Journal of Energy Technology and Policy*, and *Neurocomputing Journal*.

Dr. Zobaa is a member of the IEEE Power Engineering/Industry Applications/Industrial Electronics/Power Electronics Societies, Institution of Electrical Engineers, the International Association of Science and Technology for Development, and the International Solar Energy Society.

James S. McConnach graduated with a first class honours degree from St. Andrews University, Scotland. In 1964, Jim spent his first years in manufacturing, involved in the development and application of special transmission equipment. During this time he gained an MSc in HVDC Transmission from the University of Salford, England. In 1972, he joined the UK Consultancy, working on power system projects in many developing countries. Jim moved to Canada in 1977 to join Ontario Hydro where he had the opportunity to work on and manage a wide range of challenging projects in HVAC and HVDC transmission; hydro, fossil, and nuclear generation; and energy efficiency. He held managerial positions from 1982 until retirement in 2000. Jim is a registered Professional Engineer in Ontario; a Fellow of the IEE, UK; and Senior Member of the IEEE, USA. He is Vice-Chair of the IEEE-PES Policy Development Coordinating Committee; Chair of the IEEE Working Group on Implementing Technology to Limit Climate Change and of the task force to develop a Standard (P1595) for the Quantification of CO<sub>2</sub> Emission Credits.

Walmir Freitas received his PhD in Electrical Engineering from the State University of Campinas, Brazil in 2001. From 2002 to 2003, he was Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Alberta, Canada. At present, he is Assistant Professor at the State University of Campinas. His areas of research interest are power system stability and control, distributed generation, and power electronic applications.

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The ideal sustainable electricity systems and markets of the future will be primarily supplied by highly efficient, competitive, renewable, or zero emission distributed resources feeding highly efficient competitive end uses through highly efficient delivery systems. Reducing dependence on fossil fuels will take time and there are still many technological and other problems to be solved.

The visibility of a particular wind system will depend on many factors, including tower height, proximity to neighbours and roadways, local terrain, and tree coverage. Some people may object to a wind turbine being in their field of view, and this could be an issue when applying for a zoning permit. Therefore it may be worthwhile to investigate the neighbour concerns before projecting a wind park. In most areas, wind turbines are an uncommon sight, so that it is natural to expect some reservations about their introduction. Objections are more likely to occur in populated and tourist areas. Opposition is least likely to surface in rural settings, however impacts on wildlife, like birds, due to collision or acoustic perturbation, should be considered. Institutional aspects, like legal and regulatory issues, are important when planning a new wind energy site. It is also necessary to investigate electromagnetic interference between the Wind Park and local communication system. Therefore, in order to develop a successful wind park project, environmental, institutional, and climate change aspects must be analyzed in detail.

The objective of the special issue is to provide a means for the publication and interchange of information, on an international basis, on all aspects of environmental issues, institutional issues and climate change issues of wind power.