
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Ali Allahverdi is a Professor in the Department of Industrial and Management Systems Engineering at the College of Engineering and Petroleum of Kuwait University. He received his BS from Istanbul Technical University and his MSc and PhD from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, USA. He worked for two years at Marmara University, Turkey, before joining Kuwait University in 1995. He received Distinguished Researcher Award and Research Performance Award from Kuwait University in 2003 and 2004, respectively and Dissertation Prize from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1993. He has published over 65 papers in well known international journals and presented more than 50 papers at international conferences. One of his papers is cited among 'Highly Cited Papers' by the *ISI Web of Knowledge* (about 100 citations). He served as a Guest Editor for *European Journal of Operations Research* and *International Journal of Operations Research*. Currently, he is serving as an Associate Editor for *International Journal of Operations Research*, *Central European Journal of Operations Research* and *International Journal of Agile Manufacturing*. He is also on the editorial board of *Journal of Operations and Logistics* and *Journal of the Chinese Institute of Industrial Engineers*. He is serving as a referee for about 30 international journals.

Rubén Ruiz is an Assistant Professor in the Applied Statistics and Operations Research and Quality Department at the Polytechnic University of Valencia. He received his BS, MSc and PhD from the same university. His MSc

dissertation received the Bancaja Prize and his PhD Thesis the UPV best dissertation award. He has given more than 50 presentations at national as well as international meetings and workshops and has published over 20 research papers at international journals like *European Journal of Operations Research*, *OMEGA The International Journal of Management Science*, *Production Planning and Control*, *Computers and Operations Research*, *Journal of the Operational Research Society* as well as in some others. He has served as a Guest Editor for the *European Journal of Operations Research* and for the *Production Planning and Control* international journals. He has served as a member of the scientific committee of various workshops and meetings.

Jose M. Framinan is an Associate Professor in the Industrial Management department of at the School of Engineering in the University of Seville. His current research interests are manufacturing, information systems and process management. He has been the Principal Researcher in several international and national projects. He has over 20 publications in international journals such as *Computers and Operations Research*, *European Journal of Operational Research*, *IIE Transactions*, *International Journal of Production Economics*, *International Journal of Production Research*, *OMEGA*, *Production Planning and Control* among others. Currently, he is in the editorial board of the *Journal of Operations and Logistics*. He has served as referee for more than ten journals in JCR.

We are pleased to introduce the first issue of the first volume of the *European Journal of Industrial Engineering (EJIE)*. *EJIE* is an international journal aimed at disseminating the latest developments in all areas of industrial engineering, including information and service industries, ergonomics and safety, quality management as well as business and strategy and at bridging the gap between theory and practice. The main goal *EJIE* is to present high quality research developments in all areas of industrial engineering, as well as their applications in industry and services, to a broad audience of academics and practitioners. *EJIE* provides a platform for the dissemination of information, knowledge and new developments among professionals, academics, researchers, practitioners and policymakers working in the broad field of industrial engineering. In order to bridge the gap between theory and practice, applications and case studies are particularly welcome. For theoretical papers, their originality and research contributions are the main factors in the evaluation process.

Maybe it is pertinent to reflect why we decided to launch a new journal, particularly given the plethora of good-quality journals where the above topics can be published. Firstly, our intention was to establish a journal specifically devoted to industrial engineering research, regardless of the techniques or methods employed in the investigation. Secondly, our view does not adhere to a specific concept of the discipline of industrial engineering, but to a rather broad view of the field. It seemed appropriate to use the label 'European', not as a definition of the geographical scope or audience intended to be covered by the journal, but as a reflection of this enhanced view of the discipline. The journal is thus open to researchers from all over the world and we are pleased to see that a majority of the contributions come from outside Europe. Finally, we are committed to shorten the review process time as described in the next paragraph.

The fast pace of modern research requires a relatively short period from the conception of a valuable idea to its appearance in a scholarly journal, which in some cases takes up to several years. We believe that such long periods introduce an enormous delay in the dissemination of the results, rendering research efforts obsolete and ultimately rendering academic journals useless as an up-to-date source of information. Considering that this is a very serious issue, we are committed to a quick review process of less than 10 weeks (from submission to the initial decision) so that the latest developments and advances are available without delay to professionals, academics, researchers and practitioners and so that the authors will be able to know the evaluation of their work in a short time. The satisfaction of authors is one of *EJIE*'s concerns. We try to do our best to satisfy the authors so that any authors having an experience with *EJIE* once will not have doubt in submitting additional papers. In fact, we have already received positive responses from authors in a relatively short period and as a result, some authors have already submitted their second papers. Based on all the submissions to the *EJIE* so far, the average time of both rejected and accepted papers from the submission to the initial decision has been about seven weeks while the average time from the submission to the final acceptance time has been about 12 weeks for the accepted papers.

By no means, the speed in the reviewing process implies relaxing the quality requirements we set for *EJIE*. The editorial decision is based on the judgement of three independent reviewers in a double blind refereeing process where the identity of both authors and referees is not disclosed. Therefore, a manuscript must have an initial page with the names and affiliations of the authors, separate from the text. Additionally, authors are requested to omit, in the initial manuscript, acknowledgements, frequent self-references or other aspects that may disclose their identity. Each received paper is sent to three independent referees, experts in their areas and a paper is accepted only if all the three referees at the end agree with the publication of the paper.

This inaugural issue of *EJIE* includes six papers, addressing different areas of industrial engineering. We should mention that there is no specific reason in choosing these six papers for the inaugural issue of *EJIE* except that they are the first accepted papers. We have decided to publish the papers in the order of their acceptance dates. We should also mention that the *EJIE* was launched on 2 June 2006 and the first paper was received on 11 June 2006. The average rate of paper submission to *EJIE* so far is about one paper per five days. This rate of submission for a new journal is considered to be very high. It should be noted that summer semester was during this time period which is usually not productive for researchers since most of them take their holidays during this time period. Therefore, the rate of submission would have been even higher if the journal had been launched some other time. We should also mention that all of the submissions we have received (starting with the first) so far are regular submissions and not invited submissions. This is another factor which distinguishes *EJIE* from other newly launched journals which is an indication of the success of *EJIE*.

EJIE has initially been devised as a quarterly journal. However, the current high submission rate will result in the journal to be a bi-monthly soon. It should be also noted that this high submission rate confirms the need for *EJIE* as we have correctly projected. We are pleased to see that *EJIE* has already started filling the gap in the Industrial Engineering research field. We sincerely believe in the *EJIE*'s firm contribution to the research and development of Industrial Engineering both in academia as well as in industry. We are committed to make the *EJIE* as a journal with a high impact in the coming years and this is the first issue in a long to come list of contributions to the field.

We are also committed to the highest ethics standards. As a result, we will not publish our own papers in *EJIE* during our duty as editors. Moreover, any submission from the same institution or by colleagues of any of the editors will be handled by the other editors to ensure the independence and fairness in the review process. This will help in maintaining the high quality of the journal.

We would like to express our utmost gratitude to Mohammed Dorgham, the Editor-in-Chief of Inderscience Publishers Limited for his quick evaluation of the *EJIE* proposal and for his professional support throughout the launch of the *EJIE*. We would like to also express our appreciation to Jim Corlett, Barbara Curran, Sue O'Mara and Rama Ramakrishnan of Inderscience Publishers Limited for their excellent support throughout the launch of the *EJIE*. Moreover, we would like to thank the editorial board members and other referees for their objective evaluation of papers and for their timely and detailed reports which have improved the quality of the accepted papers significantly. Finally, we sincerely thank the contributing authors for their valuable work.