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## Editorial

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**Biographical notes:** Nikitas A. Assimakopoulos is a Professor in the Department of Informatics at the University of Piraeus, Greece. His research interests include systemic methodologies, systems approaches to management and computer systems, virtual enterprises and applied operations research techniques. He has published about 120 papers in refereed journals and has participated in about 90 conferences, with papers. He is Associate Editor in five international journals and reviewer in 12 well-known journals, which are associated with the four International Societies where he serves as an active member. He is the Founder and elected President of the Hellenic Society for Systemic Studies.

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The *International Journal of Applied Systemic Studies* (IJASS) is one of the journals within the international community of people who work on Systems Sciences that deals directly with applications of systems research or study. It is possibly the only journal, internationally, that combines a systems approach to many mainstream and scientific disciplines including management, medicine, biology, law, physics, religion, social and computer sciences, business engineering and computer technology.

The mission of IJASS lies in the development of methodologies and designs using systems approach that supports direct applications into the areas mentioned above. In this way, the journal addresses all aspects of systems analysis, research and applications from both practical and academic points of view.

IJASS is a New Voice of the Systems Community and our belief is that the significance of a scientific community can be assessed:

- by the work it carries on for the improvement of the human condition
- by its achievements that add value to science
- by the valued application of its science to the life of individuals, to the systems in which we live and work, to our communities and to the larger society.

As such the IJASS aims to provide the latest developments, research and results from applications in the systems areas for its readers. It is to be a definitive international source for a systemic approach and understanding. To back this up, IJASS only seeks the best contributions from a wide variety of sources, both in business and the sciences, along with national and international policy making institutions. This enables not only a rich source of published material but it also provides a forum for the participants to share and

support each other in their respective fields aiding in further development and mutual understanding.

Thus, maintaining high standards is imperative. Only those papers are sought that improve on the best academic research and practical applications that are motivated by addressing problems and finding solutions using systems approach with Human Intervention and the latest New Communication Electronic Technologies.

The Hellenic Society for Systemic Studies (HSSS) is responsible for the management of the research work published in IJASS. The society is represented by Professor Nikitas Assimakopoulos, President of HSSS, who is acting as the Editor-in-Chief of IJASS, Professor Nikolaos Georgopoulos, Vice-President of HSSS, who is acting as the Assistant Editor of IJASS and by Mr. Ioannis Theocharopoulos, Treasurer of HSSS, who is also acting as the Assistant Editor of IJASS.

HSSS belief is grounded in the vision of the founders of the systems movement, who dedicated themselves to unify science by developing a general theory of systems and placing systems science in the service of humankind. Some 30 years ago, when the International Federation of Systems Research (IFSR) was established, in which HSSS is a full member, it rededicated these goals and created programmes, such as Systems Research, the flagship journal of the systems movement, a book series, and a multi-regional research conversation programme.

It is our strong belief and conviction, that the IJASS will give a strong voice to the continuing development of systems science and systems service. More specifically, by focusing on applied studies, the journal can give voice to systems service on a wide range of issues that we have to address in the 21st century. Our hope is that contributors to the journal will not shrink away from working on issues which affect the future of all of us. In this effort we have the help and assistance of our Inderscience Publishers who do their best to promote the management of the authors' work already accepted for publication in IJASS.

Most pointedly, we encourage contributors to apply the insights we gained from systems thinking and a systems view of the world to the most significant issue of the day, namely, to conscious evolution, to the collective design of systems that enable the self-guided evolution of our lives, our organisations and institutions, and our communities and our societies.

In promoting the awareness of systems approach, IJASS has an extensive readership; from the sciences (Universities, Research Institutes etc.) to business and technology (Consultants, Researchers, Trainers, Managers, CEOs and Scientists). This is reflected not only in the general issues but also in the special issues on specific application domain of systems sciences and especially on emerging subjects related to the topics of interest presented in the 'Aims and Scope' of IJASS.

We offer to the systems community a new container of applied systems inquiry. But what goes into that container is up to us. Help us to make this new voice strong and enduring.

In this, the first edition of IJASS, we hope that you enjoy the many contributions from a wide variety of areas which share a passion for thinking and understanding systemically.

Finally, we wish to thank and we applaud the dedicated accepted work for publication of our good friends and colleagues for this inaugural issue of the IJASS Journal.