
Editorial

The main goal of the *European Journal of Industrial Engineering* (EJIE) is to present state-of-the-art, high quality, research developments in all areas of Industrial Engineering, including applications in industry and services, to a broad audience of academics and professionals. In order to bridge the gap between theory and practice, applications and case studies are particularly welcome. As regards theoretical papers, originality and research contributions will be regarded as key during the evaluation process.

We are delighted to introduce the first issue of the second volume of the EJIE. One of the objectives of EJIE is to have a quick review process of less than ten weeks (from submission to initial decision) ensuring not only that authors know the outcome of the evaluation process as soon as possible but also that the latest developments and advances are made available without delay to professionals, academics, researchers, and practitioners. While the academic world recognises the need of such a speed in disseminating the scientific outcome, achieving this goal in the context of a strict peer-reviewing process represented a tremendous challenge for which the collaboration of reviewers and editorial board members was essential. The average time from submission to initial decision barely exceeded seven weeks for papers submitted in the year 2007, and more than 95% of the papers were reviewed before the targeted date of ten weeks. For the revised papers submitted in the year 2007, the average time from submission of revised versions to a decision was about three weeks. By no means, the speed in the reviewing process implies relaxing the quality requirements set for EJIE since the editorial decision is based on the judgment of three (in some cases four) independent expert reviewers and a paper is accepted only if all the referees at the end agree with the publication of the paper. As a result of high standards of the review process, more than two thirds of the manuscripts submitted in 2007 were rejected.

It is a pleasure to see that papers are submitted to EJIE from all over the world and the submission rate has increased significantly. The average paper submission rate to EJIE for the year 2006 was about one paper per five days. The average rate has increased to one paper per three days for the year 2007. We have no doubt that submission rate for the year 2008 will be even higher.

We are certainly aware that there is a lot of work ahead of us. The field of Industrial Engineering is a dynamic, evolving area where new opportunities for improvement appear continuously. In this spirit, we wholeheartedly welcome new ideas, suggestions, and criticisms aimed at making EJIE a leading journal in its field.

We are indebted to EJIE Journal Manager Liz Harris for her professional work. Moreover, we are grateful to the editorial board members and other referees for their timely and detailed reports which have improved quality of the published papers considerably. Finally, we wholeheartedly thank the contributing authors for their valuable work.

Editors

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