
Editorial

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Biographical notes: M. R. Riazi is currently a Professor of Chemical Engineering at Kuwait University. He was previously an Assistant Professor at Pennsylvania State University (USA), where he also received his MS and PhD. He was also a Visiting Professor at the following universities: Trondheim (Norway), Illinois (Chicago, USA), Wright State (Dayton, USA), Texas (Austin, USA) and McGill (Montreal, Canada). He has been consultant to several oil companies and research institutes in North America, Western Europe, North Africa, Middle East and South East Asia. He has published about 90 technical papers mainly in the fields of petroleum and chemical technology and has developed methods for three chapters of the API Data Book – Petroleum Refining and authored two books and six book chapters. In addition he has presented papers to more than 50 international conferences and Canadian Oil and Gas Review wrote about him. He is on the Editorial Board of several international journals in the fields of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering. He has presented about 80 invited lectures and short courses to the petroleum industry and research institutes in USA, Canada, England, France, Switzerland, Denmark, Holland, Norway, Poland, Malaysia, India, China, Australia, Middle East and North Africa. In 1995, he was awarded a Diploma of Honor from the American (National) Petroleum Engineering Society for his outstanding service to the petroleum industry. He was awarded the Kuwait University outstanding research and teaching awards. He is a Member of AIChE and Research Society of North America.

It is my great pleasure to introduce this new journal *International Journal of Oil, Gas and Coal Technology (IJOGCT)* to the scientific and industrial communities in the areas of non-renewable energy and fuel. In addition to fossil type fuels, this journal also deals with hydrogen and biofuels as potential alternative fuels. It is not known if the world oil peak has been passed or when it will happen in the coming years, but certainly the resources of natural hydrocarbons are limited and with increasing oil demand and new environmental regulations, economic manufacture of more clean fuels is of great importance.

With oil price at an all time high (in November WTI crude price hit 99 \$/barrel), use of other types of naturally occurring hydrocarbons such as gas and coal as well as heavy oil and their conversion into light and valuable liquid fuels with high quality is on the rise. In addition, research work on economical production of alternative fuels such as biofuels and hydrogen is also expanding. Research papers in all areas from exploration and production to processing and transportation with emphasis in

economical, managerial, business, environmental, safety and security issues related to oil (including heavy oil), natural gas, coal and petrochemicals as well as manufacturing and refining of biofuels are welcome for review.

The work on foundation of this journal began in January 2007, and within a month, the editorial team was established. I appreciate the support, encouragement and the interest shown by the editorial team who are all amongst the well known experts in their fields of research. The call for papers for this inaugural issue was sent only to board members in February 2007, and this double-issue covers a wide range of areas related to economical evaluation of oil and gas projects as well as production and processing of oil, coal, hydrogen and biofuel.

The success of this journal will depend upon the active participation of the editorial board as well as seeking high-quality manuscripts from throughout the energy community. I anticipate Issue No. 3 to be ready in June 2008 and hope editorial board members will sponsor Special Issues devoted to topics of importance to the energy industry and academia. Finally, I would like to thank the managers, staff and technical personnel of Inderscience Inc. for launching this new journal.