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## Editorial

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**Biographical notes:** Konstantinos Andriotis is a reader in Tourism and Leisure at Nottingham Trent University. His research interests include tourism development and planning, community attitudes to tourism, coastal resorts morphology, sustainable tourism, island tourism development and tourism experience. He has published widely in academic journals including: *Annals of Tourism Research*, *Journal of Travel Research*, *Tourism Management and Journal of Sustainable Tourism* and is Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Tourism Policy* and the *International Journal of Hospitality Knowledge Management*. He is editor of Nova Publishers' *Tourism Development and Management – Issues and Approaches* series and an editorial board member of several leading academic journals.

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This is the first 18 months of our editorship of the *Tourism Policy Journal*, and we comment on changes that are being made, as well as to review its progress. As editors of the journal, our main aim is to publish high-quality manuscripts. The quality of a scientific journal relies on its ability to attract authors who consider the journal a worthy place to present their research findings. This is evidenced by the increased number of manuscripts submitted for consideration at IJTP. This increase in submissions has led to a backlog of manuscripts in press. Nevertheless, we are keen to see this growth to continue. As editors, we also aim to keep the review process within an acceptable time period. Through the electronic submission system of Inderscience, we have already managed to ease the review process as well as to shorten the time between the submission and publication of manuscripts.

As the submission of manuscripts has grown, we have needed to increase our editorial board, not only in numbers, but also in the breadth of expertise. We are pleased to announce the appointment of four new editorial board members: Professor Tom Baum (University of Strathclyde, UK); Professor Bill Bramwell (Sheffield Hallam University, UK); Professor Chris Cooper (University of Nottingham, UK); Professor Jafar Jafari (University of Wisconsin-Stout, USA). The new board members are accomplished researchers with extensive experience in writing and reviewing scientific articles.

The IJTP starting from this issue will be expanded by allowing the inclusion of shorter articles. From the next volume, a research notes editor, Dr. Lee Jolliffe, from the University of New Brunswick-Saint John, Canada, will be managing this section. These notes are intended as relatively short contributions (2500–3000 words) of interesting or important research being carried out in the field. In addition, for 2009 two special issues have been planned. The first double one will be edited by Konstantinos Andriotis (Nottingham Trent University, UK) and Eugenia Wickens (Buckinghamshire New University, UK) and will focus on the *Special and Alternative Forms of Tourism*.

The second issue will be edited by Metin Kozak and will include papers presented at the *4th World Conference for Graduate Research in Tourism, Hospitality and Leisure*, held in Antalya Turkey, April 2008. The involvement of guest editors ensures that we can react rapidly to opportunities and changes taking place within the travel and tourism industry as they arise and that we can develop a community of readers and authors who interact for the benefit of future issues. For this reason, we encourage academics and policymakers to submit proposal for forthcoming special issues.

Looking at the main scope of the journal, i.e.:

“to provide a forum for scholars and policymakers to exchange views and ideas at an international level on key issues that shape the growth of today’s tourism industry.”

it looks like to have been achieved in geographical terms. Since contributions from scholars, covering both theoretical and practical issues on tourism policy, are coming from all over the world, we can judge that the journal is truly international. However, we have been less successful in encouraging policy-makers to report on their initiatives, something that will be attracting our interest in the future.

In addition, early submissions to the journal were based on simplistic arguments, often providing very weak policy implications. To maintain high standards, the rejection rate was exceeding 80%. Now that the journal has been recognised for its high standards by the academic community, the number of such submissions has been decreased. Instead, we are receiving well-researched manuscripts, which contribute towards a deeper understanding of international tourism and disseminate knowledge by providing insights into developments, issues and methods in tourism research essential to theoretical understanding and practice.

While we, as editors, work on publishing high-quality refereed articles, the journal relies on the editorial board members, and to a broad base of outside skilled reviewers who offer professional, constructive, and informative feedback. The names of these people are listed at the end of this issue.