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## Editorial

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### S. Kara

Life Cycle Engineering and Management Research Group,  
School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering,  
The University of New South Wales,  
Sydney, NSW 2052, Australia  
E-mail: s.kara@unsw.edu.au

**Biographical notes:** Kara is a Mechanical Engineer with a PhD in Manufacturing. He has a professional background of more than 25 years in industry, research and tertiary education. He is currently the Director of Research and the Head of Manufacturing Engineering. He is the founder and in-charge of Life Cycle Engineering Research Group (LCE@UNSW). He is also the Technical Leader and the member of Scientific Advisory Committee of Cooperative Research Centre for Advance Manufacturing (AMCRC). He is a member of Institute of Engineers Australia and a Fellow of the International Academy of Production Engineering (CIRP).

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Dear *IJSM* readers,

Over the years, the *International Conference on Life Cycle Engineering (LCE)* has been transformed into one of the major conferences in the field of sustainable manufacturing as a result of growing significance and interest in sustainability. Today, it is indisputable that manufacturing plays a crucial role on the global sustainability and its three pillars, namely economic, environmental and societal sustainability. Therefore, non-profit professional societies such as the International Academy for Production Engineering (CIRP) play a critical role in promoting academic and industry research in manufacturing, aimed at sustainable growth and the well-being of the society as a vision. Therefore, once started as a working group under the CIRP to promote and facilitate this vision, has now turned into an international platform for exchanging ideas and disseminating research findings.

The *15th International Conference on Life Cycle Engineering* took place in Sydney, Australia in April 2008. The primary theme of the conference was the application of life cycle knowledge to engineering solutions. This special issue contains 12 selected papers from this conference which were peer reviewed by the editorial board for inclusion in this special edition of the *International Journal of Sustainable Manufacturing*. These papers are published in a two-part series in two successive issues: Volume 1, No. 4, 2009 and Volume 2, No. 1, 2010.

As the guest editor, I sincerely hope that this special issue will make a positive contribution towards reducing the adverse environmental impact of industrial production and contribute to the economic growth and societal benefits.