

LETTER FROM EDITOR

RETROSPECTIVES AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE JOURNAL OF SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT

MHD IKHWANUDDIN

*Institute of Tropical Aquaculture, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu,
Kuala Nerus, 20130 Terengganu, Malaysia*

Corresponding author: ikhwanuddin@umt.edu.my

Abstract: The Journal of Sustainability Science and Management have gone through changes to uphold the status and integrity of the journal. The Editorial Board and Editorial Members include key subject matter experts that advice the journal in achieving the vision of this journal. Through this structuring, several appointment of Associate Editors from Universiti Malaysia Terengganu and other universities greatly assist the editorial team to expedite the process through ScholarOne journal submission platform. Among the notable achievements of the journal is being included in Zoological Record, part of Clarivate Analytics specialized database brings the journal a step closer to be in the Science Citation Index and Emerging Source Citation Index of the Web of Science. The big leap of the Scimago Journal Rank, h-Index from 8 to 11 was also accomplished due to the six current publication issues of the journal.

Keywords: Journal publication, academic writing, indexed manuscript, sustainable development, South China Sea

The Journal of Sustainability Science and Management (JSSM) recently have changed its Chief Editor effective of 1 May 2019. It is now spearheaded by Professor Dr. Mhd Ikhwanuddin, who was previously the Deputy Chief Editor. Formerly since June 2015, it was led by Professor Dato' Dr. Mohd Tajuddin. JSSM is grateful for all his dedication towards the journal and putting it one step closer to its aspirations. Deepest appreciation also goes to Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) Top Management, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dato' Dr. Nor Aieni Mokhtar, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and International), Prof. Dr. Noor Azuan Abu Osman, and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation), Professor Dr. Mazlan Abd. Ghaffar for their continuous support towards the journal. The editorial team comprising of Managing Editor, Prof. Dr. Aziz Ahmad, 21 hard working Associate Editors, and Admin Editors have also contributed towards the accomplishments of the journal.

The journal has developed and gone through a lot of improvements over the years. One of the most significant transformations that were implemented is the appointment of Associate Editors (AEs). AEs of this journal are usually lecturers or researchers specialised in their field that substantially published in various academic journals. During an editorial process, their vital roles in searching for potential reviewers and recommending the paper for publication or not, have tremendously eased the overall flow of the manuscript submission. In 2018, the former Chief Editor appointed several AEs from universities other than UMT itself and until now, the team comprises of 21 lecturers from UMT while five others are from Universiti Sains Malaysia, Universiti Malaysia Kelantan, Universiti

Putra Malaysia, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, and INTI International University.

JSSM remains to publish online as well as printing hard copies of the journal. The front cover page of the journal has also evolved. Earlier the journal hardcopies all looked the same, a background of dark blue with a big picture of the coral reefs and clownfish. Starting June 2016, the hardcopies started to place pictures to reflect on the content of the journal. In the same year, JSSM published its first special issue which is JSSM Special Issue No. 1, 2016: The International Seminar on the Straits of Malacca and the South China Sea. The articles published was submitted during the seminar in which the research was closely related to the theme. Among others namely, JSSM Special Issue No. 2, 2017: Fundamental Interdisciplinary Pathways to Future Sustainability, JSSM Special Issue No. 3, 2017: Improving the Health of Setiu Wetlands Ecosystems and Productivity of Crustacean Resources for Livelihood Enhancement, JSSM Special Issue No. 4, 2018: The Role of Transparency and Management Integrity in Organisational Sustainability and JSSM Special Issue No. 5, 2018 Marine and Environmental Sciences: Current Knowledge and Future Challenges. With the publication of these special issues, the journal's publication is not limited to publishing in June and December every year but also published Special Issues that contains articles from conferences and seminars. The different cover pages of all previous issues can be seen on the social media pages and the most recent issue is usually made visible on the website. The previous chief editor initiated the journal's social media pages and it is being liked and followed by the users of such platforms.

In late 2017, the journal submission platform was improved to a much better platform using ScholarOne by Clarivate Analytics. The utilisation of this platform eased the editorial processes by keeping track of all emails, reviewing, rectification and publication processes. Since then, the journal receives up to more than 300 articles submitted to the journal last year in 2018 with submissions from researchers from all over the world. It definitely saves time and reports generated by the system have enabled the editorial team to further assess its journal submission progress. In 2018, our then Chief Editor and Deputy Chief Editor were also invited by universities outside and around the country to hold two days writing workshop. Part of this workshop was also to promote JSSM besides learning the valuable tips in writing articles and rectification process.

From 2015 until now, the journal h-index was increased from three in 2015, eight in 2018 and 11 in 2019 according to Scimago Journal and Country Rank (n.d.). One of the journal's intention was to be indexed in the Web of Science (WoS) and last year in 2018, the journal's articles were indexed by Zoological Record, part of the WoS specialised database. Articles indexed here are closely related to animal biology; behaviour, biodiversity, conservation, distribution, ecology, and the environment, evolution, genetics, marine and freshwater biology, morphology, new techniques,

parasitology, taxonomy and veterinary science (wildlife) (Clarivate, n.d.). Evidently, under the leadership of our former Chief Editor, together with the Deputy Chief Editor and the Managing Editor various improvements and achievements towards the journal have enabled JSSM to continue to be recognised globally among researchers and authors.

The journal will aspire to develop in years to come. One of the main goal entrusted by the UMT's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) is to be indexed in the WoS by the next year, 2020. With its current objective is publishing six issues per year, it is hoped in the coming years, with the frequent and timely publication, the journal can be part of the WoS Core Collection.

References

- Clarivate. (n.d.). Retrieved 21 May 2019, from <https://clarivate.libguides.com/webofscienceplatform/zr>
- SCImago, (n.d.). SJR – SCImago Journal & Country Rank [Portal]. Retrieved 1 June 2019, from <https://www.scimagojr.com>