

Editorial

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Editorial

Life in the contemporary era seems vibrant. People these days might consider being on top of the human history. We have internet, Google, Facebook, X, Tiktok, Zoom, smartphones, Tablets and Tesla. ChatGPT and AI are there to make life easier. The world has been witnessing improvement in almost every sector. In the transportation sector, one can travel to the space by making arrangements with Blue Origin, SpaceX or Virgin Galactic. Need to buy Christmas presents at the last minute? Try Amazon. For researchers, we have Elsevier (Scopus), Clarivate (WOS) and GoogleScholar or some might look into the creation of the Kazakhstani computer programmer. Medical industry is thriving (Covid vaccine, hormone therapy, Dementia treatment, etc), sport industry is at its peak (LA Dodgers acquired Shohei Ohtani with a historic deal of \$700 million ¹⁾), and even the pet industry is booming. Even though most people can enjoy the advancements of the modern era, there are undoubtedly some statistical outliers. For instance, some people are still engaging in brutal wars while we read stories of military coups in several countries, and chronic knife crimes (daily basis) in one of the largest cities of the world. One of the significant features of the interconnected world is the fierce competition. From the perspectives of the law of conservations, the world's population has been increasing, while the resources on this planet are limited. Thus, competition is the natural outcome. This is where the concept of standards and rating business comes in.

Today, we have several rating parameters such as GDP, S&P rating, Moody's rating, person of the year, to name a few. The academic industry has not been left behind. We have QS ranking, IF, H-index, highly cited researcher, Nobel prize, etc. One problem arises from the concept of rating is the meaning of "True value". According to GUM (Guide to the Expression of Uncertainty in Measurement), true values are regarded to be unknowable ²⁾. The concept of "True value" is rather complex, and we are not in the position to enlighten this philosophical issue. Instead, one can draw the records of the change in the accepted "True value". One of the historical facts is that "Adolf Hitler" was the "Man of the Year" in 1939 ³⁾. Obviously, there are several publications to flip the concept stating that it was not an honour. But not many people who are in their middle age in the 1940s are not alive anymore and one can only resort to speculations. The much-celebrated Nobel Prize considered awarding the prize to Nils Gustave Dalen in 1912, because (perhaps the speculations) Nikola Tesla indicated that he would not share the award with Thomas Edison ⁴⁾. Moreover, it is stated that the Norwegian Nobel Committee does have links to Norway's political system ⁵⁾. Even Nobel Foundation struggles with defining who is the best ⁵⁾. Finding the best can be related to attempting the "True value". We do have several such difficulties in the academic circle. Is the H-index the best to judge a researcher's performance? What are the minimum requirements (H-index, publication, teaching services) to be tenured? Is the required H-index 10, 20, 50 or even 100? Are Japanese Universities unfairly ranked low in the QS ranking? How many papers are required to get a PhD degree? How about many papers in MDPI? Attempting to get the answers to these questions might lead to a career-defining (sometimes career-ending) moment. There are several popular answers: "Publication is not important". "QS ranking is for the American Universities". "Presenting the wrong results is not a big issue so long as the KPIs are met". "Internationalisation!" "Diversity!" "We focus on the education". "We are greening!" Many might say, "It depends." Or even: "We don't care!" Such answers clearly show the difficulty in finding the "True value". That is why indexing

services such as Scopus and Thomson Reuters are thriving. In broader sense, it might lead to the formation of groups who share the same ideology.

EVERGREEN is not immune to the struggle with the “True value”. Does being indexed in Scopus make it reputable? How about being downgraded to “Q3” from “Q2” makes it a bad journal? Does publishing diverse subjects lower its quality? The answers are closely related to the “True value”. Nevertheless, we will leave it to those who have deep thinking power, while we publish *EVERGREEN* Vol. 10, Issue 04. In this issue, we have sixty-three articles with thirty-five original papers and the rest are articles from the special issues. These articles emphasise research in social science, environmental science, material science, and computer science. The subject areas of the articles cover from the sustainable practices to the hospital industry, the role of fuel oil on the transition to net zero emissions, pollutant removal in the river water, forest carbon dynamics modelling, socioeconomic modelling to map the urban extent, composites, nanoparticles, tribology, modern applications of ozone technology, and several articles on the artificial intelligence and image analysis. We also have several interesting articles from SIMS2022 and ICSEEA2022. Again, one might ask if the publication of diverse research areas improves the “True value” of *EVERGREEN*. Obviously, we do not have a universally accepted answer to that question. However, we do hope that these articles will contribute to the scientific advancement and provide engineering solutions for a better society.

EVERGREEN has a few updates on the editorial team. Prof. Bidyut Baran Saha is now the “Editor-in-Chief Emeritus”. We extend a warm welcome to Prof. Manoj Kumar from Dehradun Institute of Technology, India, Prof. Ji Hwan Jeong from Pusan National University, Korea, Prof. Normah MOHD-GHAZALI from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, and Prof. Patrice Estellé from the University of Rennes, France. These new editorial members are highly respected researchers in their respective fields and will be significant additions to *EVERGREEN*. We would like to thank the editorial and management team for their continued support. *EVERGREEN* has been receiving an increasing number of interest in terms of submission and we are grateful to the authors. We would like to strongly record our deep appreciation to *EVERGREEN* reviewers for their expert comments and suggestion. We are almost completing the integration of the reviewers’ records in *EVERGREEN* with ORCID. We would like to acknowledge the contribution of *EVERGREEN* Secretariat, Ms Mieko INOUE, and are thankful to Ms Junko KOJIMA for her support with the publication of this issue. We always consider ourselves too lucky to co-work with those miracle ladies who have built up the solid underpinning for *EVERGREEN*. For them as well as our honorable audience, we would like to bring a small gift. That is a landscape of Hase-dera Temple, Nara, which is located in a calm, rural and mountainous area. Our team is working hard and implemented several new features to *EVERGREEN* to serve our authors best, while we are welcoming several improvements. Are these attempts going to upgrade the “True value” of *EVERGREEN*? It is a tough ask. Obviously, our answers is not “It depends”. However, as the saying goes; “Beauty is in the eye of the beholder” ⁶⁾, and we hope that will serve as a temporary solution. We might be doing things that we think are right for *EVERGREEN*. However, getting things right is not always straightforward, even for the most advanced society of the world. Winston Churchill once said, “You can always count on the Americans to do the right things, after they have exhausted all the other possibilities” ⁷⁾.



Hase-dera Temple, Nara © Jun Tanimoto

We hope to do the right things in *EVERGREEN* before exhausting other possibilities. We wish you all a Happy New Year, 2024.

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Evergreen - Joint Journal of Novel Carbon Resource Sciences & GreenAsia Strategy

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Editorial from the guest editor of SIMS2022

Dear Readers,

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that we present this special issue for the selected papers from international conference SIMS-2022 on "Smart Industries and Manufacturing Systems for Sustainable Development". In a world where industrial processes play a pivotal role in shaping the future, this collection of articles aims to shed light on the intricate interplay between advanced machining, materials, sustainability, and Industry 4.0.

The landscape of industrial production is undergoing a transformative shift, and this special issue serves as a comprehensive guide to understanding the paradigm shift brought about by the fusion of cutting-edge technologies and sustainable practices. We are witnessing a profound evolution in the way society and production systems interact, with a concerted effort to make both more efficient and environmentally responsible.

The genesis of this special issue lies in the growing body of research dedicated to addressing the challenges associated with material processing, machining, waste management, and overall industrial operations. Researchers worldwide have been diligently working on proposing sustainable solutions that not only mitigate the environmental impact but also contribute to the broader goal of creating a more resilient and eco-friendly industrial landscape.

The articles included in this issue delve into various aspects of smart industries and manufacturing systems, offering insights into the latest advancements in technology and their application to real-world industrial scenarios. From innovative machining techniques to the use of advanced materials, and the integration of Industry 4.0 principles, as well as the renewable energy resources each contribution aims to push the boundaries of knowledge and practice.

As the Guest Editors for this special issue, we extend our gratitude to the authors for their valuable contributions and to the editors and reviewers for their meticulous assessments. Their collective efforts have resulted in a collection of articles that we believe will be instrumental in guiding researchers, practitioners, and policymakers towards a more sustainable and technologically advanced future.

We hope that this special issue serves as a catalyst for further exploration and collaboration in the realm of smart industries and manufacturing systems. By disseminating the latest research and insights, we aspire to foster a community that actively contributes to the ongoing dialogue surrounding sustainable development in the industrial sector.

Thank you for your interest in this special issue. We trust that the articles presented herein will inspire new ideas, spark discussions, and contribute to the ongoing global efforts aimed at creating a more sustainable and prosperous future.

Sincerely,

Dr. Manoj Kumar SAIN

Guest Editor