

Editorial

I wish to inform our readers that this issue of the World Transactions on Engineering and Technology Education (WTE&TE), marked as Vol.20, No.4, includes 11 articles coming from eight countries with three articles coming from both Indonesia and Kazakhstan, one article each from Colombia, Poland, Slovenia and South Africa, as well as one joint article from Peru and Spain. This wide international coverage is encouraging and hopefully the articles will reach a wide reception.

There is one broad issue that I would like to highlight today, and it refers to a constantly growing concern about scientific misconduct, including inappropriate article submissions to publishers. This issue, of course, must be separated from genuine errors that may happen, and are usually promptly corrected. With the enormous growth in the number of international journals, the industry is trying to impose some strict rules and procedures. Our readers would undoubtedly recognise that intellectual property and copyright are at the core of this open debate. Authors should take special care when using or referring to previous research, documented concepts, methods, achievements, writing style and verbatim inclusions of other authors' texts, and when they do so, they have to ensure that all sources are properly acknowledged and authorship attributed through a strict set of rules for citation and referencing. Plagiarism is one of the highest levels of misconduct in academia, and all authors are fully responsible for their professional ethics behaviour.

A related issue that has been recently brought to my attention is the so-called text recycling, where authors plagiarise themselves by using the same text in several articles. One could list more issues that are being monitored these days; for example, multiple authorship of an article with some co-authors having no contribution to the article. The industry has already implemented several tools to identify such malpractices, so that the perpetrators could critically assess their situation and be held accountable; this malpractice needs to be eliminated.

As the publishing industry is particularly interested in this matter, I would definitely encourage potential authors to make themselves familiar with the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) guidelines, in order to avoid potential problems with publication ethics and malpractice.

As always, I am pleased to thank the authors of the articles included in this issue for their significant contribution to this Journal, and indeed to engineering and technology education. My sincere thanks also go to the referees for their outstanding work, as well as to the members of the editorial team that includes such colleagues as: Professor Andrew Nafalski, Dr Dianne Q. Nguyen, Professor Derek O. Northwood, Mrs Dorota I. Pudlowski, Associate Professor Arthur J. Swart and Professor Robert Špaček for their remarkable contribution to the editorial work and the release of this issue.

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