

# Editorial Note

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The current issue of Iranian Journal of Electrical and Computer Engineering (IJECE) marks the first anniversary of the publication of this journal. We would like to express our gratitude on behalf of the IJECE editorial board to all distinguished referees, authors and readers who have generously supported us.

Bearing in mind what had been stated in the *Editorial Note* of the previous issue regarding the long-term plan for the IJECE and the measures have been taken into account for broadening the scope of this journal as a professional forum for communication between peoples who are active in the field of electrical and computer engineering, accessibility of the journal, citation of the papers and inclusion of its articles in well-known databases, it seems necessary to have few words with our readers as potential authors and reviewers about another aspect of the IJECE long-term plan.

Though, one of the ultimate goals of any journal is to reduce both the reviewing time of submitted papers and the waiting for accepted articles, this should not be traded with any sacrifice of the professional quality of the publication. Indeed, this is also one of the major guidelines of the IJECE long-term plans, at least to the extent that is affordable for a journal that publishes semiannually. From the early stages of foundation, the global computer network, i.e. Internet, was selected as the main media for all necessary communications in this journal, including paper submission, correspondences with authors, the selection and invitation of potential competent referees for each particular submission, transferring the review materials and retrieving the referees' remarks and review results, etc. This decision has promoted both the IJECE and its authors and reviewers to establish a high-speed link and has had a great impact on reducing entire review and publication process. In fact, among all correspondences, the only material that was needed to be signed and send by ordinary mail services was the copyright form. Fortunately, with the acceptance of the digital signature concepts in the legislation bodies recently, we can enter to an entirely paperless communication era in the near future.

Eternally, the editorial department closely monitors the review and publication process of every submitted article from timeliness point of view to take measures for any possible reduction. Since the review of all papers are organized as a voluntarily professional cooperation of distinguished referees network worldwide, currently including more than 400 referees from 36 countries, as any other professional journal, there are occasions that some referees fail to meet the scheduled timeslot for the review task. While this normally extends the review time of the related articles, it has been tried to prevent such problems by appointing four to five competent referees for each submission, a task which has been experienced to be hard in several occasions. Up to this stage, IJECE staffs have done their best to reduce the review and publication waiting time. A comparison between the submitted articles in two consecutive years, i.e. 2001 and 2002, shows that despite

submission rate increase from 37 to 57 articles, the average review waiting time had a decrease from 244 to 196 days in the same evaluation period. Also the average timeslot between the submission and the publication dates of the accepted papers has dropped slightly from 344 to 325 days. The efforts will be continued and precious suggestions of our readers are greatly welcomed in this regard.

Returning to the current issue and following one of the guidelines of IJECE long-term plan in dedication of a special section in each issue of this journal to a particular field of electrical and computer engineering, a *Special Section on Power Engineering* is organized in this issue which includes five articles. The first paper by Hanada and Kermanshahi presents the results of a study on applying a multi-agent system using the Artificial Neural Network (ANN) learning behavior for consumer usage patterns of power utilities in the household scale. The next three articles discuss relevant issues in motors and drives areas. A paper by Fedor and Perdukova deals with the methodology of designing a complete fuzzy model of a DC drive based on a suitable database of measured input-output values. In the next paper, Negm *et al.* propose a DC drive speed control system. Another article also contributed by Negm *et al.* investigates a global ANN algorithm for on-line speed control of a three-phase induction motor based on the optimal preview control method. Finally, this section concludes by a paper presenting the results of a study on leakage current measurements on 20 kV porcelain insulators presented by Tsarabaris *et al.*

The regular paper section of this issue includes six papers. An article by Rehman investigates the steering problem of an underwater vehicle model. In the next paper, Lukac and Varga address the problem of optimal design of weighted median filters based on genetic approach and its application in nonlinear image filtering. Then, the problem of maintaining connected components in quadtree representation of binary images is discussed in a paper by Khanna *et al.* In the fourth paper of this section, Kocur and Zetik present the usage of linear or non-linear estimators in direct-sequence spread-spectrum receivers and their impacts on interference suppression. Later, Kabalan *et al.* present the analysis of electromagnetic coupling of incident plane wave of a particular structure using the characteristic modes theory. Finally, this issue is concluded by the proposal of a new multidimensional architecture for computing Walsh-Hadamard transform in a paper contributed by Elnaggar and Aboelaze.

Pleasant Reading,

M. Ehsan  
Associate Editor

H. R. Sadegh Mohammadi  
Editor-in-Chief