

From the Editor-in-Chief

Kimon P. Valavanis

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Dear Colleagues

I do not want to repeat myself, however, I feel the need to say once more that we constantly look for ways to improve our Journal, and we welcome recommendations and suggestions. Thus, it is my pleasure to say that in this Editorial, suggestions/recommendations made by Dr. Ahmad Rad, a member of our Editorial Board, will be adapted effective January 1, 2012. Ahmad's recommendations, edited a bit but not changed, are summarized below:

1. We will make every effort to dedicate one issue per year to a leading figure/authority who has made significant contributions to our field (in the areas of interest to our journal and readership). As such, one possibility will be to invite papers from authors/groups which have been inspired from the individual's contributions. A second possibility will be to ask the individual who is honored and/or a close colleague to write a paper about her/his research accomplishments.
2. We will make every effort to solicit invited papers from leading authorities in Academia and Industry, which will be published in one issue, once per year. These papers will reflect mostly state of the art, as well as future research directions in our field. In short, this will reflect the 'experts' opinion' in robotics, automation and unmanned systems.
3. We will make every effort in publishing Special Issues on emerging topics. As such, it is a good idea to appoint 1–2 Editors every year to be in charge of this effort.

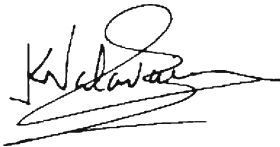
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4. We will target international conferences for the purpose of publishing a collection of best papers (revised/enhanced) either as part of an issue, or a complete issue.
5. We plan to start a column on Education. This is a very important subject, and more details will be provided in a future Editorial.

To summarize, we will keep on looking for ideas to become the best. The road to the top is difficult, but it is certainly worthy of trying.

Enjoy the issue.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Valavanis', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kimon P. Valavanis
Editor-in-Chief