From the Editor-in-Chief

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Dear Colleagues,

The issue at hand is the fourth since we switched to Continuous Article Publishing (CAP). We still learn how to optimize and improve the process to release each issue at the beginning of each month. Regardless, we believe that we provide an important service to all of you, particularly the contributing authors, since accepted papers once received in final form, are immediately published. In parallel, we make every effort to reduce the backlog of papers under review without sacrificing quality. We are aware of the ‘reviewer fatigue’ we all suffer from, and we welcome your ideas to mitigate this challenge.

Next, I would like to re-iterate once more and touch upon a very important issue related to contributed papers. The aim is to provide some ‘structure’, such that submitted papers are not returned to the authors for revision before actual review. As such:

- Authors should run a ‘similarity check’ before submission. *iThenticate* is one option.
- Each submitted paper is checked for duplication. Contributed papers should have about 20% total overlap with previously published work in the technical sessions. We do realize that same references may be used in multiple papers, though. If this percentage is higher, the paper is usually returned for revision and explanations. If the percentage exceeds 30%, then such papers are rejected without review, but with explanations.
- In each paper, mainly in the Introduction section, authors should provide clear statements of originality, novelty, distinct features of their proposed approach, method,

algorithm, technique, etc., compared to similar work, as well as contributions. This facilitates greatly the review process.

- If the paper, before submission to JINT, has been uploaded on the web as a report, or it has been published ‘internally’ as a technical report, then, the authors should state this in a cover letter to avoid delays (*iThenticate* will return a very high similarity % that will lead to rejection).

Note that we try to help, not to impose obstacles. In doing so, we protect you firstly, and the reputation of JINT secondly.

We thank you for your continuous support. We renew our commitment to do our best, and if our best is not enough, then we will try harder!

Enjoy the issue.

Kimon P. Valavanis.
Editor-in-Chief.

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