

Editorial

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This is the first editorial since I became the Editor-in-Chief of the journal of Multidimensional Systems and Signal Processing (MSSP) in January 2011, following the sad passing away of the founding Editor-in-Chief Professor Nirmal K. Bose in November 2009. After going through the difficult transition period of several months around the end of 2009 and beginning of 2010, the journal has since been doing quite well, owing to the efforts of the editorial board, the support of the publisher Springer and of course the authors and reviewers of MSSP.

I would like to first update some statistics of MSSP in the past 2 years. I am pleased to report that the latest impact factor (2010) of MSSP has jumped to 0.822, from around 0.5 for the several years before 2010. In 2009, we received a total of 70 submissions, among which 9 were special issue papers while 61 were regular papers. Out of the 61 regular papers, 14 were accepted eventually, accounting for an acceptance rate of about 23%. In 2010, we received a total of 80 submissions, among which 23 were special issue papers while 57 were regular papers. Out of the 57 regular papers, 14 were accepted, accounting for an acceptance rate of about 25%. The low acceptance rates of regular papers ensure that the journal maintains the high quality of the papers published. In 2011, the total number of submissions was 119 (101 regular papers and 18 special issue papers). It is the first time that the journal has an annual submission of over 100 manuscripts since electronic submission was implemented in 2005.

The journal is also keeping its tradition of balancing regular papers with special issue papers. In 2011 (issues 22:1–3 combined), we published a special issue in memory of Professor Nirmal Bose, edited by myself and Editor Anton Kummert. In 2012 (issues 23:1–2 combined) we published a special issue on “Advances in Multidimensional Systems and Signal Processing”, guest edited by associate editors Krzysztof Galkowski and Nicholas Karampetakis, also dedicated to the memory of Professor Bose. The special issue on “Multidimensional Signal and Image Analysis on Health Care Applications”, guest edited by associate editor Julia Chung and editorial board member Robert Newcomb, has just been

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completed and will be published tentatively in the last issue of 2012. Another special issue on “Challenges, Trends and Solutions for 3-D Imaging and Video”, guest edited by editorial board member Eduardo da Silva and associate editor Carla Pagliari, is in the final stage of completion and will tentatively appear in early 2013. Several new special issues are currently in the planning stage.

In the past 2 years, we have introduced several measures to streamline the paper submission and reviewing process, such as the revised aims and scope and the new manuscript area classifications. This is to ensure that submitted manuscripts are within the scope of the journal and will go to the most suitable associate editors for review handling. With the help of the associate editors, reviewers and authors, the average number of days for the first review of a manuscript was reduced from 111 days in 2009 to just 72 days in 2010, a significant reduction of 39 days. Similarly, the average number of days for papers being finally accepted also dropped from 225 days in 2009 to just 175 days in 2010, a saving of 50 days. At the time of writing this Editorial (February 2012), all the papers submitted prior to March 2011 have had final decisions of acceptance/rejection. Among the 119 papers submitted in 2011, 86 of them have already had final decisions.

After the previous Editorial by Professor Nirmal Bose in the March 2010 issue, we welcome the new associate editors: Joerg Velten, Olivier Bachelier, Rudolf Rabenstein, Carla Pagliari, Paolo Rapisarda, Wojciech Paszke; and the new editorial board members: Joseph Ball and Ettore Fornasini. All of them are experts in the topical areas represented by this journal. In particular, Professor Fornasini served as an associate editor from 1990 to 1998, and then a Co-Editor from 1999 to 2006, both for MSSP. After serving as associate editors for many years, Krzysztof Galkowski and Eric Rogers have now served in the capacity of editorial board members. We would like to thank outgoing associate editor Bernard Levy, editorial board members Hyung-Myung Kim, Jan Willems and Alan Willsky for their long and valuable service to our journal. We take this opportunity to congratulate associate editor James Lam and editorial board member Elena Valcher on their elevation into IEEE fellows recently.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following people who have devoted their time and efforts to MSSP for many years, particularly for the past 2 years: Editor Anton Kummert for managing the journal, sharing ideas and overcoming the difficulties together; all the associate editors and editorial board members for their timely help in handling papers and suggesting new ideas for improving the quality of the journal; Tim Stout, Laura Lander, Melissa Fearon, Jennifer Evans, Miriam Neethi and Ramya Vasudevan from Springer for the strong support (note that Laura and Miriam left Springer in 2011); and last but not the least all the reviewers and authors for their contributions to the journal.