News from the editorial desk

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With this issue, we launch our celebration of the twentieth volume of the *WMU Journal of Maritime Affairs* (JOMA). Over the last twenty years, JOMA has offered a wide-ranging research in the field of maritime affairs and is well positioned to deliver useful scientific findings to contribute towards the world shipping communities. All of us, early-staged and experienced scholars, have been benefited from reading the selected articles and have the privilege of knowing many promising and active scholars in the emerging scientific field of maritime studies.

We are well aware of the nature of our twenties—the life stage where we have an incomparable passion for something we do really want to do and/or get. Having made an analogy between human life and journal life, we could naturally expect that it is the time for JOMA to make a fuller effort towards its aims and goals. JOMA, as one of the key internationally peer-reviewed journals dedicated to the study of maritime affairs, focuses on subject areas including maritime safety, maritime energy, maritime administration, management and operations, and marine environment protection, and also gives special attention to human factors, impacts of technology, and policy-making in this context. The goal of the journal is placed on serving the international maritime community by presenting original research and evidence-based arguments, reporting on relevant scientific findings and addressing inter-relationships among those subjects in a multi-disciplinary manner to improve safety, efficiency, and environmental performance of maritime transport.

Having spent one full year of 2020 as an editor-in-chief, I noticed a gradual but steady change with regards to the journal's readership, academic stature, impact, and international presence. Personally, I am being more encouraged and motivated by the fact that the growing eagerness and willingness of journal readerships—that is, YOU—to make a contribution to JOMA in a way or another as a reviewer, an author, or other capacities. There is a few good news shared to me by the publisher a few weeks ago.

- JOMA is now part of the Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI), a step prior to the Social Sciences Citation Indexed (SSCI) journal. It is expected that JOMA will

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be further evaluated in the next two to three years by the Web of Science as a candidate to be covered in SSCI.

- JOMA has received a steadily growing number of manuscript submissions during the year of 2020. Due to the limited space for publications, the acceptance rate has inevitably dropped, by approximately 17 percent in comparison to the previous year. It is therefore reasonable to consider increasing the page number of each issue and/or the issue number of each volume if this pattern is stable, and also subject to the scientific quality and significance of the submissions.

A few impending promises are to be made as per my first editorial last year, regarding writing a series of editorial on topics such as “how to get your paper(s) published at JOMA,” “how to review a manuscript in a constructive manner for JOMA,” and also updating the editorial board members in line with the journal’s aim and direction. I will keep making a due effort for the former, while you will see a “Call for Editorial Board Nominations” in the Announcement Section of this issue for the latter.

Another news from the editorial desk is that Professor Jens-Uwe Schröder-Hinrichs, our Consulting Editor, will share us his extensive experiences with JOMA from the journal’s inception till now. His contribution is planned to be included at the September issue as the 20th Anniversary Editorial.

Finally, I am pleased to inform you that, as per one of the promises made in the first editorial, the annual “Best Paper Award” and “Best Reviewer Award” are now announced in the Announcement Section of this issue.

I am, as usual, looking forward to receiving comments and feedbacks from you as a current and future contributor to the *WMU Journal of Maritime Affairs*. Please drop me an email whenever you feel it could be helpful and useful to the common good of the journal. Thank you for your active participation and wish you enjoy reading the first issue of 2021.

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