

EDITORIAL

Note from the Editor

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.18063/JSC.2015.01.005>.

This is the first issue of the *Journal of Smart Cities* (JSC), a multidisciplinary forum for publishing original research in the area of smart cities, bringing together scholars from the fields of engineering, urban planning (including transport), computer science, and information and knowledge management. A key objective of the JSC is to promote research for the improvement of all sub-systems of cities, including urban infrastructure, construction, mobility, energy saving and renewable energy, health and social care, safety in the public space, work and innovation, and make the city easily accessible, effective, efficient, and an attractive place to live.

I am particularly happy that the effort that we started jointly with our Publisher (Whioce Publishing Pte Ltd) at the end of last year has culminated into launching both the electronic and the printed version of the Journal in such a short time. It was definitely not an easy task right from the beginning, and perhaps a brief historical overview is in order at this stage. After agreeing to act as JSC' editor-in-chief, I made an effort to select associate editors that would not only be internationally-established researchers but also would cover as much of the envisaged scope of the Journal as feasible. It was a fortunate and turning moment when two distinguished colleagues, one from Europe and one from the US, kindly agreed to undertake this grave responsibility. Professor Anne Kiremidjian, from Stanford University (USA), comes from the Civ-

il Engineering Department and covers aspects like structural monitoring, sensors, and smart civil structures. Professor Nicos Komninos, from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece), comes from the Urban Planning Section of the Department of Architecture and covers aspects such as regional planning, innovation systems and strategy, and intelligent cities. Arguably the most onerous task on the organisation side was the compilation of the Editorial Board; the major difficulty was to have a balanced board both from the expertise point of view and with regard to the geographical distribution. I am really happy with the end result, a genuinely international (16 countries from all continents) and multi-disciplinary Editorial Board of 30, including distinguished researchers from the fields of city planning and development, management of urban infrastructure, structural health monitoring, building energy management, internet technologies and society, and several other aspects of what is currently deemed as part of a smart city. This Board constitutes the pillar for supporting the running of the Journal, in particular for ensuring that each submitted article is reviewed by experts in the field who can offer an informed opinion and make a proper recommendation, as well as for organising special issues around themes pertinent to smart city problems.

This first issue of the JSC cannot possibly encompass all the envisaged objectives and aspects of smart cities. Nevertheless, it is a good sample of what we are

aiming at, as it includes contributions coming from various parts of the world related to

- using smart materials for smart cities (smart concrete in particular, in the paper by D'Alessandro *et al.*)^[1];
- an overview of the air quality problem in Indian megacities (paper by Gurjar and Nagpure)^[2];
- improving the effectiveness of smart city applications (paper by Komninos *et al.*)^[3];
- developing smart water distribution networks with an optimal sensor placement strategy (paper by Christodoulou)^[4];
- developing a border detection tool for risk mitigation applications (paper by Casciati *et al.*)^[5].

I feel confident that in the issues to come, further aspects of smart cities will also be addressed in the published papers, and overall our journal will materialise its objective of serving as an international platform for sharing the latest research achievements on smart cities world-wide, primarily (but by no means exclusively) from the fields of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Urban Planning and Transport.

Last but not least, I would like first to invite you to contribute a research article or a comprehensive review for consideration and publication in our journal, and second to announce a forthcoming special issue on SMART CITIES AND CLOUD COMPUTING (dead-

line for submissions 31/12/2015), scheduled to appear as the first issue next year. This special issue focuses on smart city solutions and cities around the globe that develop strategies, infrastructure, applications and e-services using cloud technologies and business models. Two more proposals for special issues are currently being considered and the corresponding announcement will be made in the near future.

References

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3. Komninos N, Bratsas C, Kakderi C, *et al.* 2015, Smart city ontologies: Improving the effectiveness of smart city applications. *Journal of Smart Cities*, vol.1(1): 31–46. <http://dx.doi.org/10.18063/JSC.2015.01.001>.
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5. Casciati F, Casciati S, Faravelli L, *et al.* 2015, Development of an Outline Detection Tool (ODT) in QGIS environment for risk mitigation applications. *Journal of Smart Cities*, vol.1(1): 59–67. <http://dx.doi.org/10.18063/JSC.2015.01.006>.