

A Message From the Outgoing Editor-in-Chief

AS MY term as the Editor-in-Chief (EiC) of IEEE INTERNET OF THINGS JOURNAL (IoT-J) has ended, I would like to share my appreciation for all of you, including authors and IoT-J team. I have been serving as the EiC since 1 January 2020, just before the pandemic. I am thankful that the pandemic is mostly behind us, and I am happy that our editorial board members have been able to work on making the Journal successful during that difficult time. It has been a challenging time for all the authors and the entire editorial team. The coronavirus pandemic ushered in mask mandates, quarantines, school and business closures, and so on, devastatingly impacting everyone's lives. When I started to serve as the EiC, succeeding former EICs Prof. Sherman Shen and Dr. Chongang Wang, it was predictable that the pandemic impact would hurt the submissions and interfere with the editors' engagement in the review process. At that time, I felt that there were many and varied challenges in front of us.

Fortunately, our IoT-J team has done an excellent job facing the challenges. Working with the entire editorial team successfully over the past three years has been a great pleasure. With the collective efforts from the entire IoT-J team, the Journal is fast growing and has been elevated to one of the top IEEE journals in our field, with an SCI impact factor of 10.238 (2021) and an average monthly submission of ~500 papers.

During my three-year term, I have been working with the editorial board team to promote IoT research in multiple areas. In addition to enhancing the IoT-J existing areas: 1) Area 1: Sensors and Devices for IoT; 2) Area 2: Communications and Networking for IoT; 3) Area 3: Security and Privacy for IoT; and 4) Area 4: Services, Applications, and Other Topics for IoT, I have been working with the editorial team and advisory board as well as our steering committee to identify two new promising areas that may shape our technology in the future. One is "Artificial Intelligence for IoT" (Area 5), and the other is "Distributed Computing and Autonomous IoT Systems" (Area 6). In recent years, AI has become one of the most exciting technologies that spread its applications to many aspects of our daily lives from smart home monitoring to advanced manufacturing. At the same time, distributed and high-performance computing, as well as autonomous systems,

such as unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), have dramatically advanced in the past ten years. With the significant growth of 5G/6G in recent years, the mobility and services of IoT have been augmented significantly in multiple aspects. It is worth mentioning that connected and autonomous vehicles (CAV) will likely become a wide IoT application on the road that intersects with AI and communication and sensing. The new area 6 is aligned with the technology trend.

Further, in order to expand the scope of IoT-J and nurture new research areas, our team has been working efficiently to select a good number of exciting special issues in the topics of cyber-physical-driven 6G, blockchain, artificial-intelligence-based systems for Industrial Internet of Things, cloud/fog/edge-enabled big data intelligence for IoE, IoT for power grids, green IoT for future space-air-ground-ocean integrated networks and applications, and so on. I want to thank the guest editor teams who edited such wonderful special issues (SIs). These SIs are complementary to our regular issues and are well liked by the authors. Some SIs attracted 100–200 submissions, showing that the SIs have triggered a strong interest in our IoT community. One evidence is that the Journal had more than 1 million user downloads in 2021.

I also want to take this opportunity to express my great thanks to IoT-J steering committee, advisory board, and our IEEE IoT-J production manager Joanna Gojlik and the IEEE support staff Mariola Piatkiewicz, Surbhi Tyagi, and Steven Perez for their dedication to the Journal. Finally, I also would like to welcome Prof. Nei Kato from Tohoku University who will serve as the Journal's next EiC to continue the momentum of IoT-J.

It has been a busy three-year term, and together, our entire IoT-J team has already made tremendous strides. Thank you for all you do for IoT-J. I wish you all the best.

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