Message From the Editor-in-Chief

THIS issue of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON MULTIMEDIA (T-MM) marks the beginning of my second year as your Editor-in-Chief. I would like to take this opportunity to wish the readers of T-MM a very happy and prosperous new year in 2015! The first year of my tenure as Editor-in-Chief for T-MM has been a wonderful experience and very gratifying. In 2014, T-MM has witnessed significant growth in several facets, thanks to the great support from the authors, reviewers, associate editors, publication office staff members, and the Steering Committee (SC) members.

During the first year of my tenure, I have worked with various constituents of T-MM to institute several initiatives in order to meet the increasing needs of T-MM at several fronts. I would like to share with you these positive developments and offer some advices for authors to become better engaged with T-MM.

Submission Statistics: By the end of October 2014, we have received a total of 505 fresh submissions. Although these numbers represent only 5% growth over the year of 2013 in which we received about 587 total submissions, the growth is still substantial considering that we did not have any special issues in 2014. I expect that we will have more significant growth of paper submission in the next few years when we plan to have two special issues each year. I would like to sincerely call for the multimedia community to submit more high-quality papers to T-MM. We are accommodating the expected increase with more Associate Editors, more reviewers, and more page budget and issues to publish. Anticipating the growth, we have already expanded the editorial board and augmented the reviewers' pool. We have also increased the page budget and the number of the issues per year.

12-Issue Monthly Publications: Among several initiatives in 2014, the most important one is the approval by the SC my request to publish T-MM on a monthly bases with page budget of 2500 for 2015. From 2015 on, we shall have 12 monthly issues published for T-MM! This is a significant milestone since the beginning of successful T-MM publication 17 years ago. T-MM is now among the most prestigious IEEE transactions that publish their issues monthly.

Associate Editors and Reviewers: During 2014, we have expanded the editorial board with 12 new Associate Editors with more diverse expertise to cover emerging areas in multimedia. On behalf of the T-MM editorial board, I would like to thank every member of the multimedia community who has answered the call from the Associate Editors for help to expand our reviewers' pool in order to meet the challenges in the growth of paper submissions. Without these dedicated reviewers, we would not have been able to successfully handle the growth in submission in a timely fashion.

Special Issues and Survey/Overview Papers: Other major initiatives include the successful Call-for-Proposals for Special Issues and Survey/Overview articles. We have received strong responses from all four sponsoring TCs. After a competitive selection process, the Editorial Board has selected three special issues for 2015 and 2016 and two overview articles for 2015. These proposals have recently been approved by T-MM SC and the CFPs for the Special Issues have been published in recent T-MM issues. I would like to encourage everyone who are working in the related areas to check out these CFPs and, more importantly, to submit your high-quality research to these special issues.

Out-of-Scope Submissions: Due to T-MM's more comprehensive scope definitions, we constantly receive submissions that are considered out-of-scope. These papers will be rejected without full review. I would like to emphasize that all potential authors should check with T-MM's recent issues (within 24 months) to see whether we have published papers related to the research topic of your submission. If T-MM has not published related papers in the past couple years, your submission most likely will be out of scope for T-MM. If you do find that T-MM publishes related papers, I suggest that you cite these papers in your submission so that the editors and reviewers are well informed of the relevance of your paper with T-MM.

Plagiarism Issues: Since 2013, the IEEE's content management system has instituted a system-wide plagiarism check for every paper submitted to all IEEE journals. In the case of T-MM, the Editor-in-Chief will be prompted with an e-mail warning if the Overall Similarity Index Percentage has reached 30% or above. This index refers to the percentage of phrase-to-phrase and sentence-to-sentence copy from all source of previously published papers. This is particularly problematic when a T-MM submission is an expanded version of previously published conference paper. I would like to urge all potential authors to pay greater attention in your writing when expanding your conference papers. For any paper submitted to T-MM that receives plagiarism warning, the paper will be thoroughly checked for possible violation of plagiarism, including self-plagiarism (copy from your own published papers). Depending upon the severity of violations, these paper may either be asked to be rewritten or be immediate rejected without full review.

Impact Factor: I understand that the impact factor of T-MM has not been as high as T-MM authors and readers wanted to be. I would like to urge everyone who cares about T-MM to check out every issue of T-MM for excellent papers we have published. Although we may not be able to compete with major multimedia conferences such as ICME and ACM MM in terms of timeliness, the papers published in T-MM do have the advantage over conference papers in terms of completeness of technical innovations. Please read and cite T-MM papers, not only in your submissions to T-MM, but also in all the other papers you

will be authoring. I am sure you will like many of our recent papers once you check out T-MM issues regularly. Furthermore, T-MM's ePublication channel publishes papers that have been accepted for publication several months before they are published in a scheduled future issue.

Article Influence Score: This is another frequently used measure, along with the Eigenfactor, for a scientific journal. It measures the average influence, per article, of the papers published in a journal. It is calculated by dividing the Eigenfactor by the number of articles published in the journal in which the Eigenfactor measures the journal's importance to the scientific community. Scores are scaled so that the sum of all journal scores is 100. In 2013, among all IEEE journals and magazines, the *IEEE Signal Processing Magazine* is highest at 3.85, followed by the PROCEEDINGS OF THE IEEE at 3.50. Several IEEE journals that enjoy their high impact factors actually have a modest

Article Influence Score. I am happy to report that T-MM is doing well at this front among telecommunication journals as T-MM is ranked among the top 10 of these journals. See the lists of top journals in different category at: http://www.ieee.org/publications_standards/publications/journmag/journalcitations.html.

I look forward to continued support from all of you, authors, readers, reviewers, associate editors, and staff members at the T-MM publication office, to work toward greater success in the coming years. I also look forward to hearing from you constructive suggestions to take T-MM to its next level of excellence.

Happy New Year to all of you!

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