

To make PWE a competitive international journal

Chun Gyeong YOON
Professor, Konkuk University, Korea

1. PWE publication – one and half year experience

Since the first issue of the PWE (*Paddy and Water Environment*) was launched in March 2003, the PAWEES (*International Society of Paddy and Water Environment Engineering*) has published seven issues already as per schedule. Invaluable efforts were made from many members including authors, reviewers, editors, and administrators as well as publisher. Many authors made a contribution and total 92 papers were submitted, and 45 papers were accepted as of Vol. 2, No.3 (7th issue) and 9 papers were rejected. The average review process until the final decision took less than 6 months. It is a remarkable record for a new-borne international journal and we can celebrate our recent achievement.

There seems to be an improvement yet to be made if we take a look at the record in more detail (Table 1). Most papers were submitted from Japan and Korea, and paper submission from the other countries was limited. It implies that the PWE still needs to become more international rather than a regional and local journal. The success of the PWE largely depends on international cooperation and recognition, and piles of high quality submitted papers on the desk of management office. Leaned contribution from a specific country is not desirable and it might generate biased impression on the international journal. Members from other countries are strongly encouraged to submit high quality papers for the success of PWE.

Table 1. Number of papers submitted with country

	Japan	Korea	Taiwan	Italy	China	Indonesia	Philippines	Pakistan	Sri Lanka	Nigeria	Total
Papers	61	17	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	92

2. SCI registration needed

To become a successful international journal, the PWE needs piles of high quality papers from globally distributed regions as mentioned above and professional management. To receive more attention and contribution from scientists and engineers in global scale, we may need more efforts to get acknowledgement in academic fields. Authors want to have appropriate recognition and credit from paper publication, particularly in international journal rather than in local journal. But the PWE is a new-born international journal and it is not well-recognized yet even in domestic level. For example, the PWE is not registered in KRF (Korea Research Foundation) and classified as simply international journal which is lower grade than the registered local Korean journals. The journals registered in SCI (Science Citation Index) can have high credit globally, and most researchers prefer to submit manuscript in good quality to the SCI-registered journals. To pay back appropriate credit to the authors and long lasting success of PWE, we may need to take more rigorous actions for SCI-registration of the PWE.

3. SCI journal selection process

The ISI Thomson Scientific has been collecting scientific data throughout the world and providing service for citation index of selected journals. The SCI (Science Citation Index) and SCIE (Science Citation Index Expanded) are among them, and they gain growing attention in research community as globalisation continues. It becomes a nearly standard measure to evaluate the scientific publication, and the PWE needs to be registered on the SCI in the earliest possible to be acknowledged widely. In the journal selection process, a cost effective index restricts its coverage to only those items that researchers are likely to find useful as nearly as possible. Four criteria are generally considered including (1) basic journal publishing standards; (2) editorial content; (3) international diversity; and (4) citation analysis.

1) Publishing standards

a) **Timeliness of Publication**

A journal must be published according to its stated publication schedule, and ISI must receive three on-time issues in sequence.

b) **International Editorial Convention**

To optimize retrievability, the journal must have informative journal titles, descriptive article titles, full address information for every author, and complete bibliographic information for all cited references.

c) **English Language Bibliographic Information**

Article titles, author names and address, cited references, and abstracts and key words must be in English language.

d) **Peer Review**

Application of the peer review process is another indication of the journal's standards, the overall quality of research presented, and the completeness of cited references.

2) Editorial content

Do we need this new journal in the database, or is the category already well covered?
Does this new journal offer something new?

3) International diversity

Are the authors, editors, and editorial advisory board members from around the world?
Does this journal reflect the global context in which scientific research takes place?
ISI also seeks to cover the best regional journals as well.

4) Citation analysis

Expert use of citation data help ISI identify important, influential, and useful publications. For the new journals, ISI evaluates the citations of authors and editorial advisory board members received in past.

4. We can make PWE a competitive international journal

Even with expected and unexpected difficulties at the new journal establishment stage, the PWE has been moving forward successfully with invaluable efforts of editors and managing editors at the management office in Japan. We all the PAWEES appreciate their contribution and need to cooperate and work together as a team. I would like suggest the followings to make PWE a successful international journal:

- a) Papers should not be leaned to Japanese researchers to become a real international journal, and many researchers from other countries including Korea are strongly encouraged to submit many papers in good quality to the PWE management office.
- b) Management efforts should be maintained and shared, and potential reviewers are asked to process promptly and professionally.
- c) According to the SCI journal selection process, authors should cite the PWE papers when they write another paper in SCI journals for citation evaluation.
- d) Finally, the management office needs to consult the ISI for the possibility of SCI registration of the PWE. We already have published more than three issues in series. Rigorous efforts in addition to the Springer's role may help the ISI to recognize and pay more attention to the journal, which might accelerate SCI registration of the PWE.