

## **Editorial Note: Past Report and Future Direction for Iranian Journal of Management Studies**

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In winter 2007 the management faculty members of Farabi (Qom) College of the University of Tehran decided to establish *Iranian Journal of Management Studies* (IJMS), an academic English language management journal, initially with the view to “transferring research findings of Iranian management scholars to other people around the world”. Since then, we have published 11 issues with 84 articles in different disciplines such as Public Administration, Organizational Behavior, Accounting, Finance, Operation Management, Marketing and so forth.

However, managing such a journal has not been as easy task. Firstly, publishing a management journal in English as a foreign language in a country like Iran is challenging. Given the emphasis of the journal on clarity of communication and high quality scholarship, maintaining such standards has been particularly time-consuming and demanding mainly because despite their high quality contents, some articles have been returned to their authors for further proofreading. Some others have been even rejected for their lack of clarity resulting from difficulties of writing in English as a foreign language. Secondly, since theory building has been a key focus for the Journal, maximum effort has been put into encouraging original knowledge development. As such, replication of already existing theories has been an area we have been trying to avoid or minimize. We hold the idea that knowledge generated by or in non-western contexts has been less

visible; this should not mean that the non-western knowledge does not exist. Indeed it does. It only needs to be extracted from local contexts and make its way onto the stage (international academic outlets such as conferences, journals, and books) (Jafari 2014). Consequently, while some articles have demonstrated such quality, others have, inevitably, been desk-rejected because they have lacked originality.

As widely acknowledged in our broad professional community of scholars, the quality of publishing and ranking of a journal is highly dependent on at least two pillars: (1) the quality of submissions; and (2) the quality of reviews (Adler and Harzing, 2009; Firat, 2010).

### **Submission Quality**

Up to now, IJMS has been published in two volumes a year, January and July. Yet, with the growing number of high quality submissions to the Journal, we have decided to publish IJMS quarterly from 2015.

To promote IJMS in international context we used several ways. We academically sponsored international conferences, used professional networks like academia and linkedin, and included IJMS in valuable indexing and abstracting organizations like DOAJ, ISC, Ebsco, Proquest, Google scholar, Index Copernicus, Global Impact Factor, Cabell's Directory, Ulrich, Getcited, Research Papers in Economics (RePEc), World's biggest open access English language journals portal (Open J-Gate), China Educational Publications Import and Export Corporation (Socolar), etc. IJMS has also been monitored by Scopus and Thomson Reuters since 2012.

### **Review process**

To enhance the quality of the Journal's review process, we started to invite renowned scholars from all around the world (e.g., Iran, the Middle East, the Americas, Europe, and Asia) to sit on our editorial team. More than 2000 emails were sent to individual scholars and now we have about 200 reviewers and editorial team members from USA, UK, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden, Turkey, Portugal, Lebanon, Romania, Ukraine, New Zealand, Australia, China, Singapore, Malaysia, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, India, Pakistan, United Arab Emirates and Iran. To accelerate and improve the quality

of the review process we have appointed associate editors who handle the submissions on the editor-in-Chief's behalf.

We have upgraded the website and submission system to facilitate submission tracking and timely evaluation process. IJMS has several advantages for authors. Firstly, publishing in IJMS is totally free of charge. Secondly, IJMS is an open access journal which means that all published papers are accessible as PDF file through our website. Thirdly, the initial review time and the total review time have been reduced to three month in most cases.

### **Journal statistics**

Our advisory and international editorial board consists of 72 scholars in different disciplines. IJMS's current acceptance rate is 17% and desk rejection rate is 36%. Total Citation number of IJMS is 113, which means that the average citation per paper is 1.35. The average number of authors per paper is 2.4. The science impact factor of IJMS is 2.77.

### **References**

- Adler, N.J. & A.Harzing (2009). "When Knowledge Wins: Transcending the Sense and Nonsense of Academic Rankings". *Academy of Management Learning & Education*, 8, 72-95.
- Firat, A.F. (2010). "Commentaries on the state of journals in marketing". *Marketing Theory*, 10, 437-455.
- Jafari, A. (2014). Editorial: Towards an Enhancement of Knowledge Generation in Marketing by Contributions from Non-Western Contexts. *Iranian Journal of Management Studies*.