

Note from the editor

A well-ordered life is like climbing a tower; the view halfway up is better than the view from the base, and it steadily becomes finer as the horizon expands.

*~William Lyon Phelps
(American educator and journalist 1865-1943)*

In the November 2009 edition of the Journal, the expanding of the horizons of Industrial Engineering is the theme. However, not only will this edition expand the horizons of IE applications, the Journal will have a significantly wider reach. It will henceforth be included in the EBSCO electronic journal platform for global dissemination. It is believed that the exposure gained through the inclusion of the Journal on the EBSCO platform, will further enhance and confirm the international standing of the Journal.

Furthermore, the Journal will in future be organized into three sections - the first section will have a feature article which will have an alternative approach either by means of what it proposes or through a different application of the concepts of Industrial Engineering - a different or unusual scenario for example. The second section will contain general articles whereas the final section will have case study based articles. All articles will continue to be refereed as before.

In the feature article in this edition, the concept of outsourcing is applied to a most usual situation - the outsourcing of UN peacekeeping roles and support functions. Although outsourcing is a concept all too familiar to Industrial Engineers, the use of outsourcing in such a situation is quite novel.

The next four articles continue the theme of broadened horizons - applying the concepts of Industrial Engineering to optimizing tax levels, selection of sustainable energy technology on the African continent, investigating science park performance and finally technology transfer from the South African financial services industry into foreign markets.

The next article addresses project governance for large capital projects, to be followed by three articles on quality topics. The first of these is at a conceptual level to be followed by two articles on control charts - traditional Industrial Engineering material.

The final seven articles address typical issues in a manufacturing environment - covering machine tools, cost benefit analysis, scheduling, facility location and performance evaluation - more traditional Industrial Engineering content.

As ever, the content of this edition of the Journal confirms the wide scope of Industrial Engineering concepts in terms of application. It is hoped that the scope of articles will continue to bind the readers of the Journal.

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