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## We are integrating with the world – Journal of Environmental Sciences Journey of twenty five years

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### 1 Initial construction of JES

Twenty years ago, research on environmental science was extended beyond its initial scope including pollution source surveys, environmental pollution monitoring, and treatment of the "three wastes" (waste water, waste gas, and solid waste) to a full concern with the behavior, tendencies and harmful effects of pollutants in the environment as well as the overall understanding of the ecosystem. Environmental scientists came to realize that the solutions to environmental problems and their fields of study could no longer be restricted to a particular region or country, but needed exchanges with foreign scholars and transnational cooperation between scientists. However, at that time, China had no any English-version journal of environmental science available for the peer-to-peer exchange of Chinese scientists with their international counterparts. In 1989, under the advocacy of Prof. Yahui Zhuang, who at that time was the Director of the Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences, we set out to found the first English-version journal of environmental science in China – "Journal of Environmental Sciences (JES)". The purpose of the journal was to enable Chinese environmental scientists to more easily share their research results with their international counterparts, while at the same time, hoping to introduce international advanced research results to China through this window. As editors, our intention was to try to manage the publication of the English-version journal of environmental science well. Later, with the gradual maturing of the journal, our higher target has been to achieve an international journal in a true sense.

The famous Chinese Earth environmental scientist, Academician Dongsheng Liu, was appointed to be the first chief editor. He was personally involved in the organization of the Editorial Board and in giving guidance to the development of the journal. At the beginning, the degree of internationalization of this journal was still in its infancy. Almost all articles originated from Chinese authors. The first session of the Editorial Board was composed of 42 Chinese scientists from China, Canada, the United States and Hong Kong. The initial edition was published by the Beijing Science Publishing House. After that, JES initiated a collaboration with the IOS Press in Netherlands, putting forward its issue abroad. That was the toddler stage of our journal on the world stage. Though faltering, it brought us a fresh experience in how to work on an international journal. In the first year of its foundation, there were only two trial publications. After that first year, JES has been changed successively to quarterly, then bimonthly and now monthly publication.

In 1991, the international bibliographic database EI (the Engineering Index) collected articles of our journal, followed by several other international databases, such as CA, EA, and GA successively. In 1996, JES began cooperation with the Environmental Research Center of the Chinese University of Hong Kong and actively sought to add international members to the Editorial Board, and broadened its refereeing mode and manuscript sources as well as other aspects. At that time, Hong Kong had not yet returned to China, so this cooperation was an important step toward external exchange and interaction for our journal. Later, the Editorial Board was composed of a multinational group of scientists and the range of authors was gradually extended from China to developing countries, some developed countries and even broader sources in the world. Since 2001, after another important international database SCI has included articles from our journal, more and more authors and readers from other countries have come to know JES. Since then, the comprehensive internationalization of JES truly began. At this stage, Prof. Po-Keung Wong and Prof. Kin-Che Lam from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, with their international vision, devoted a lot of effort and sincere help toward the development of our journal. They

\* Managing editor (2004–current); \*\* Managing editor (1989–2004)

taught us to understand the basic rules in the operation of an international journal. Prof. John Cairns Jr. from the University of Michigan had long realized that China's environmental problems were closely related with the world at large, and saw clearly the potential of our journal. With an impartial attitude and in the spirit of science, he introduced our journal to the outside world, and vigorously promoted our international exchange. In the meantime, there have been many members of the Editorial Board and scientists sincerely devoting their wisdom and strength to the development of our journal; in particular, the contributions and insights of various scientists from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Peking University, Zhejiang University and Tsinghua University have injected vitality into the internationalization of JES. This kind of cooperation and assistance provides a good foundation for the development of JES, and the influence of JES has gradually grown.

## 2 Developing JES

The past decade's advances and development have laid a solid foundation for the success of JES. Along with the economic development and technical progress of China, JES has undergone continuous innovation, and accordingly it has developed by leaps and bounds and achieved notable accomplishments.

In 2008, Prof. Tang Hongxiao, Academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, acted as the second Editor-in-Chief of JES. He thought seriously about the development of JES, and put forward a clear idea about the mission and development plan of JES. With the definition of a mission for JES, we had a clear approach for reviewing and selecting manuscripts. We are not merely seeking to build an international periodical, but in raising the overall level of JES based on a high level of academic quality, value and influence, and at the same time attaching more importance to the representation of regional environmental problems.

Meanwhile, the editors' scale and level have also been increasingly expanded. At present, there are four editors and two native English editors in the JES editorial group. We have an effective work process: manuscript reviewing is processed under the rules of an editor responsibility system, which means that each related editor should be responsible for an article from initial reviewing to final publication. Each article adopted will be processed by the responsible editor, enhanced in language by the English editor, and then go into production process using L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X.

In 2005, JES began the work of establishing an online system. By May of 2006, online processing had been set up; and each year, related websites are introduced, maintained and improved by an orderly process. Now the JES website covers the whole content needed by authors and readers, which includes: journal browsing of articles going back to the establishment of JES, current article downloads, and publication status of articles for the benefit of authors. In 2011, to solve a long article publication cycle, JES began to put the currently accepted articles online with their DOI numbers. This not only meets the needs of authors, but also helps the articles to be read and cited by others in a timely fashion.

In 2007, JES changed into a monthly publishing journal, and further extended the fields of study. Besides the original basic fields of environmental sciences including the aquatic environment, terrestrial environment and atmospheric environment, JES added environmental biology, environmental toxicology and health, environmental catalysis and materials, and environmental analysis and methods. The detailing and addition of environmental fields not only enlarges the number of authors and readers, but also emphasizes that JES is truly a comprehensive journal of environmental sciences.

As regards international cooperation, since 2006, JES has cooperated with ELSEVIER – an international publisher, and authorizes ELSEVIER to be responsible for circulation of the overseas edition in print and the global electronic edition of JES. Such cooperation promotes the internationalization of JES, and accordingly the contribution ratio of foreign authors has substantially increased. According to online data from Science Direct, the total number of downloads of full text from JES in 2011 was over 170,000, which indicates that the network platform of ELSEVIER significantly improves internet promotion; this cooperation has forcefully pushed the internationalization of JES.

JES has gained increasing attention from experts and scholars at home and abroad, and articles from international conferences which are held by different countries are published in JES as special columns or in special issues. For example, JES published columns from four international meetings in the year 2011: (1) The 6th International Conference on Interfaces Against Pollution (e.g., Wang et al., 2011); (2) The 4th International Symposium on Environmental Economy and Technology (e.g., Liu et al., 2011); (3) The 18th International Conference on Environmental Indicators (e.g., Hänninen et al., 2011); (4) Special Section on Wastewater Re-Use (e.g., Yi et al., 2011). In 2012, JES devoted a special issue to an international meeting: Progress & prospects of atmospheric environmental science, and several renowned scientists contributed a great deal (e.g., Wang and Hao, 2012; Gao et al., 2012; Catoire et al., 2012; Lin et al., 2012; Gao and Zhang, 2012; Ma et al., 2012).

## 3 Achievements and recognitions

JES has been a high-quality journal which is recognized by all experts and scholars in the field of environmental science, and the articles published in JES have obtained wide attention. For example, in 2008, Yang et al. (2008) published an article entitled **Progress in carbon dioxide separation and capture: A review**, which has been cited over 200 times so

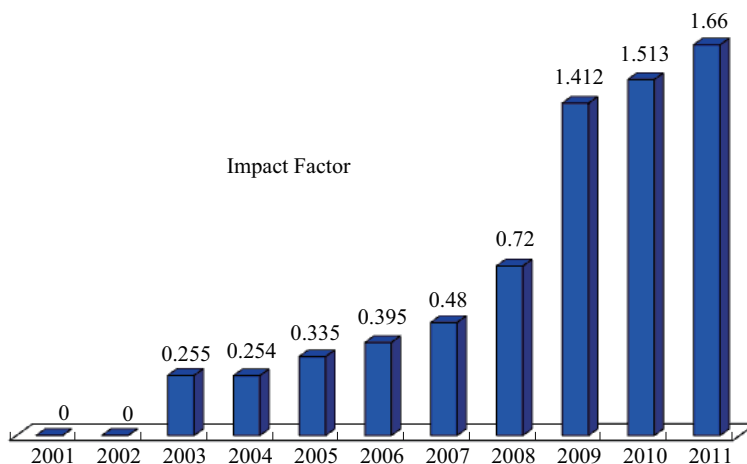
far, and it is the most highly cited article in the past 25 years. The top 5 articles which are most highly cited for the past 25 years are as follows: Yang et al., (2008), Bulut and Tez (2007), Rizwan et al. (2008), Cang et al. (2004), Zhang et al. (2007). We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to these authors and also other authors who have contributed to the journal.

The data as follows also shows JES development. **Table 1** demonstrates the quantities of contribution and publication increases annually. **Figure 1** reveals the change of the SCI impact factor of JES, while **Fig. 2** displays the year-to-year trend of total citation frequency, it can be seen that impact factor and total citation frequency of JES follow a steady rising trend, which shows that JES has stepped into a sound development stage.

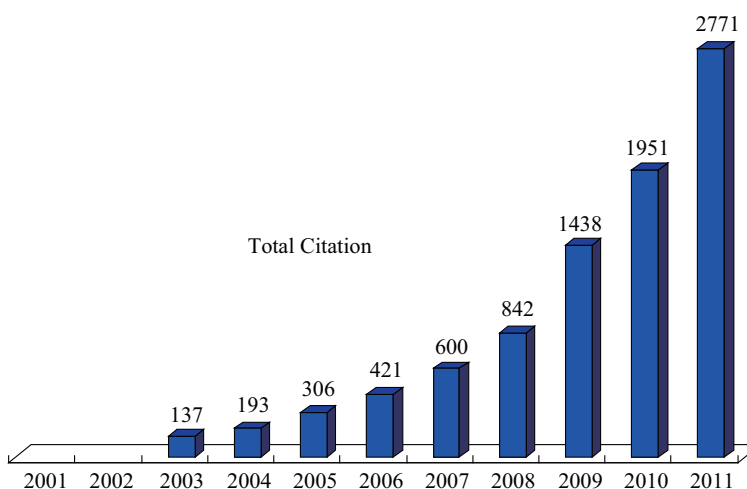
The impact factor of JES in 2011 rose to 1.660. Of the 205 international journals in the field of environmental sciences, JES ranked 98/205 (higher than 47%, Rank Q2); total citation was 2771 times with the rank of 62/205 (higher than 30%); the publication quantity of papers ranked 27/205 in 2011 (higher than 13%).

JES was granted the following titles and awards:

- The Best Scientific International Journal in China (2008)
- Publication Fund of Chinese Academy of Sciences (Second grade award) (2009)
- Publication Fund of Chinese Academy of Sciences (First grade award) (2010)
- National Natural Science Foundation of China (2011–2012)
- The Best Scientific International Journal in China (2011)
- Publication Fund of Chinese Academy of Sciences (First grade award) (2011)
- The Most International Influence Academic Journal of 2012 China (2012)
- National Natural Science Foundation of China (2013–2014)



**Fig. 1** JES impact factor trend from 2001 to 2011.



**Fig. 2** JES Total Citation change trend from 2001 to 2011.

**Table 1** JES annually received manuscripts from 2007 to 2012

Manuscript	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total received	950	1200	1350	1800	2100	2260
Total published	247	234	267	285	282	286
Accepted rate	26%	21%	21%	16%	15%	13%

## 4 Conclusions

JES devotes a great deal of attention to scientific and innovative research articles, and it often reports advanced research results and technical means in the field of environmental science research at home and abroad from multiple aspects. JES not only receives articles from domestic authors, but also foreign authors. We always insist on keeping pace with the times, with reform and innovation, and meeting the development pace of science. JES has become a highly advanced academic journal in the environmental science field which has gained the recognition and esteem of experts and scholars.

In 2013, JES will show its new look to all our readers.

## Acknowledgment

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## Aims and scope

*Journal of Environmental Sciences* is an international academic journal supervised by Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences. The journal publishes original, peer-reviewed innovative research and valuable findings in environmental sciences. The types of articles published are research article, critical review, rapid communications, and special issues.

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