

EDITORIAL

***JOURNAL OF TROPICAL FOREST SCIENCE* TURNS THIRTY**

This October 2018, The *Journal of Tropical Forest Science* (JTFS) celebrates its 30th year of publication. Since its inception in 1988, JTFS has been committed to being a repository of information on the science, technology and development of tropical forests and forest products.

Publishing has evolved greatly during this period and JTFS has benefitted much from this evolution, especially in terms of expediting the processes of manuscript submission, review and production. Our latest tech-savvy move has been the use of the online submission system and assigning digital object identifiers to articles published.

Looking back on what JTFS has accomplished, we are proud that with limited resources, the Forest Research Institute Malaysia has been able to maintain JTFS for 30 years as a non-profit open-access journal of high quality. At 30, we look forward to achieving more in terms of higher credibility, more quality papers, better reviews, higher impact factor, and better science.

Of editorial challenges, there have been several crucial ones. One big challenge has been to resist numerous pressures to dilute the journal with papers that are only weakly linked to forestry, for example, papers on herbal products in which the only link with forestry is that the plants originally came from forests, but the content is herbal medicinal usage, for which there are other more relevant journals.

Another challenge is the increasing use of mathematics by authors. There are biologists who think that the application of mathematics will improve the scientific content of a biological paper. The results have almost always been detrimental because the mathematical procedures are nearly always copied and applied without proper understanding of the mathematical principles involved. To avoid such mishaps we require all mathematical procedures, except the most common ones, to be explained in words.

A lot of what JTFS celebrates is due to authors who support the journal. We thank our screening team, led by Dr FSP Ng, for ensuring that only papers that meet our basic standards are sent for review. This process of filtering is worthwhile as reviewers will not be burdened with substandard papers. We recognise and acknowledge the commitment of reviewers who spend time and effort to improve papers and thereby help to improve the quality of the journal. We are also grateful to the Editorial Advisory Board members, whose names are listed on the inside front cover of each issue. Their support has been essential in making sure that the journal maintains high standards of excellence.

We have been fortunate to have committed management and staff members who understand our role and support our needs. We must also say thank you to the dedicated people who preceded us. We continue to be a consolidated team committed to furthering the goals of excellence in the publication of forestry research.

To mark this historic milestone, we have lined up ten papers written by eminent researchers in this Anniversary Issue. To the authors, we appreciate and thank you immensely for your contributions. Your support means a lot to us in commemorating this special year.

Sarifah KA
Editor