



Socio-Economic Planning Sciences

Note from the Editor-in-Chief

Starting a New Era for SEPS

The forthcoming issue (Vol. 45, No. 4) of *Socio-Economic Planning Sciences* (SEPS) marks the completion of the transition between the outgoing and the incoming editorial teams. After 23 years of service to the journal, Barnett Parker stepped down as the editor-in-chief at the end of 2010. We acknowledge his long-term service to the journal.

The previous issue of SEPS (Vol. 45, No. 3) features three papers: Iannoni et al. on large-scale EMS operations -handled by the outgoing editorial team; Laporte et al. on rapid transit networks, and Prybutok et al. on quality measurement at the municipal government level -handled by the incoming editorial team.

The new team of 14 associate editors (AEs) includes seven members of the former editorial board; Baveja, Caulkins, Greenberg, Johnson, Nijkamp, Rauner and Tone, as well as seven AEs who kindly accepted my invitation to serve SEPS, Batta, Berman, Boyaci, Corbett, Daskin, Murray and Zaric (please [click here](#) for full information on the current editorial team). While continuing to publish high quality articles focusing on the use of quantitative methods for public sector decision making, our collective goals for the short term are; (i) to increase the journal's visibility and reputation in relevant fields that have been under-subscribed to SEPS in the past, and (ii) to have SEPS included in the widely recognized Thomson ISI Citation Index. In the remainder of this editorial, I provide an overview of the steps we have taken in aiming at these two objectives.

The forthcoming issue contains six papers, each making a noteworthy contribution to the state of the art in public sector decision making. The four regular articles, by Banai & Wakolbinger, Cotte-Poveda, Goletsis & Chletsos, and Hall et al., cover a wide range of problems by the use of a portfolio of quantitative techniques i.e. multivariate analysis, data envelopment analysis (DEA), analytic network process, and empirical analysis. They also cover a variety of geographic regions with very different socio-economic characteristics i.e., Memphis (TN, USA), Greek periphery, Columbia, and England & Wales. The two invited papers by Lin et al. and Sodhi & Tang, focus on disaster response and social enterprises, respectively.

The “invited paper” section of SEPS comprises papers I solicit from leading scholars in their own field, who are widely recognized around the globe. To this end, I have invited Gilbert Laporte, Rajan Batta and Chris Tang to write the first three papers for this section (the last two are in Vol. 45, No. 4). These invited papers are refereed by another reputable expert, albeit in an expedited fashion upon my request.

There are two special issues (SIs) currently in progress: (i) the SI guest edited by Rajan Batta on *disaster planning and logistics*, and (ii) the SI guest co-edited by Mark Daskin and Alan Murray on *public sector facility location*. We have received 32 submissions for the former, whereas 18 papers were submitted for the latter. The disaster planning and logistics SI is well-advanced and the current plan is to publish it as Vol. 46, No. 1. We have not scheduled the public sector facility location issue yet, but I am quite sure it will be published next year as part of Vol. 46.

We have recently announced two new SIs and the calls for papers are posted on the [SEPS homepage](#). The *energy modeling* SI is being guest edited by Nicola Secomandi and Jay Apt, whereas the *healthcare modeling* SI is being guest edited by Greg Zaric and Arielle Lasry. The submission deadlines are the first day of October 2011, and January 2012, respectively.

On behalf of the editorial team, I encourage you to consider SEPS as an outlet for your high quality articles. Enjoy reading the six papers in this issue, and hopefully you will find some of them useful for your own research.

Vedat Verter
Editor-in-Chief
July 2011

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