Preface

With the flying time, we have harvested fruitful results. *Journal of Engineering studies* has been published for three years. It is three years with smiles and tears, diligence, hard work and persistence. The editorial colleagues cannot help expressing with deep emotion: “the mission is arduous like climbing an insurmountable mountain, but we are determined to conquer all the obstacles on the way till we obtain the victory”.

If we re-examine each article and roll out every publication, what present in front of us is a string of firm and shiny footprints exploring towards the bright future. Today, we are proud that engineering study lives up to the blessing and trust of the time and from a toddling kid, it has grown into a beautiful youth, just like the rising sun.

How could the grass thank the sunshine enough?

When excited about the steady expansion of the circulation and the reader scope, we are thankful to all the readers who cast their caring sight to our journal. It is your constant support, earnest expectation and passionate encouragement that urges us to strive night and day with inexhaustible energy.

When think of the constant enrichment in contents, we are grateful to all the authors who are interested in our journal. It is your diligent work, rigorous study style, and wise inspiration that made each publication of the journal a feast to the thought.

Though the bitter coldness sometimes is unbearable, the smell of the plum blossom is of more fragrance after the severe weather.

Three years hard work has won us fruitful achievements. We have issued three volumes, twelve issues with 141 pieces of articles, including: *Special Issue: Classical Engineering Projects of China; Special Issue in honor of the 100th birthday of Qian Xuesen; Special Issue: Urbanization: Problems and Strategies; Special Column: Emergency Treatment; Special Column: Nanotechnology Revolution-Advantage and Risk*; and so on. All the articles are based on reality and cover a wide range from past to present. We are trying our best to provide satisfactory services for the authors and qualified answers to the readers. The excellence-seeking attitude has won us impressive responses from the readers. They expressed recognition and expectation for our journal through letters or phone calls. The reference rate is steadily improving; the influence is expanding gradually and the range of the authors and the readers is growing too. The road in front of us is broad and we have faith in the future of our journal.

The rough road ahead cannot make us waver, but give us more courage to explore new and higher territory.

We know the work for the publication is far below the expectation of the time and the readers, and we know there are many difficulties lie in front, but we have the confidence to conquer all the obstacles and exploit the new realm. The confidence is not based on blind optimism, but from the mature and effective path we have figured out through the long and difficult journey and also from the conception of the journal we have formed through the practice we have been accumulating.

We could say the construction of engineering facilities is a very complex and comprehensive interests-weighing process and the operation of the engineering facilities constitute a complicated and giant system. From the pre-feasibility study, decision-making to construction and operation, engineering is a product
of multidisciplinary, including social science, engineering science and technology. It is safe to say interdisciplinary is the basic feature of engineering practice. So we believe interdisciplinary study is the intrinsic requirement to study engineering. Some people think specialization is the future direction and trend of academic journal. This argument does have its own reasons and basis; however, in terms of engineering academics, a comprehensive journal with interdisciplinary study is indispensable. Three years of practice has strengthened our understanding three years ago—the appearance and publication of our journal is in line with the contemporary scientific and cultural development.

The subtitle, engineering under an interdisciplinary vision is definitely not an empty rhetoric, but the creation of practical needs and theoretical basis. Borrowing the expression of system theory master Qian Xuesen, the interdisciplinary style of our journal is a kind of “great wisdom”. Today, the meaning of interdisciplinary path we adhere to is becoming clearer. The column setting reflects the comprehensiveness of the subjects, that is to say, the different subjects of engineering academics are all reflected in the journal and the journal is featured with macro perspective, prospective and comprehensiveness. The more important meaning is that this journal, from the perspective of social science, natural science and engineering science, is promoting academic discussion on major practical engineering problems, even social issues related to engineering in the form of special topics and special issues. Through extensive case study and in-depth theoretical exploration, our journal aims at finding out the comprehensive understanding of engineering laws and makes them serving the development of the society.

We believe that once given the value, academic cannot be neutral, which means academic viewpoints with the value must reflect the position and represent the interests of a country, a nation, a group or an individual. This point of view is of more special significance to engineering academics, which have a very clear position and represent the interests of different subjects. The engineering facilities have mandatory value. The investment of engineering facilities is huge, so once completed, they require continuous use and consistent maintenance. The influence will play a continuously mandatory role in the society and for human beings. The result of the facilities’ abandonment is not only material loss, but also maybe social unrest. Engineering facilities, to their essence, are the infrastructures for production and for people’s living. Engineering facilities have general value, that is to say, the operation of them could affect the daily life of most people.

Engineering academics, as defense or as criticism, its position is taken as the theoretical basis for projects decision making, which is then influences human life. Academics have the position, so the journal does. And the academic position of this journal is that engineering study reflects the academic viewpoints of various engineering schools all over the world and advocates the ones that are in line with the interests of our country and our nation; it also reflects the academic viewpoints of different engineering schools domestically and promotes the ones that are in line with the interests of the people.

According to the above concept, we will stick to the path we have tried, which is also effective in publishing the journal. Engineering study targets major engineering practices, aims at theoretical exploration and heads to the direction to provide theoretical basis for projects decision making. Through specialization, the journal focuses on different topics, sets special columns, organize special issues and invites experts and scholars from different fields to discuss certain topics in an interdisciplinary and comprehensive way. By adopting the mode of pros and cons, the journal encourages various academic viewpoints to communicate and argue, which provides the soil for the seeds of thought to flourish into the tree of truth.

When you feel the gentleness of the spring breeze on the face, the scenery is all refreshing and brand new.
When the readers open up the first issue of our journal in 2012, they will notice new changes. According to the standard academic subject system, we readjust the column of our magazine. Engineering review column, one of the special columns, will reflect the new and sharp perspectives of people with insight; engineering science and technology column will reflect scientific and technological achievements in the planning, design, operation and maintenance of advanced projects in and out of China; engineering management column will reflect the latest engineering strategic notions, project policy proposals, and also the first-hand project managing experience and concept; engineering philosophy, engineering sociology, engineering education and engineering history columns will provide a rich and broad research vision from the perspective of social science for the readers to study engineering issues.

Engineering study must be rooted in engineering. Our specialization path will be closer to engineering practices and will pay more attention to major engineering problems. In the coming period, the engineering practices that will appear in our magazine includes: eco-agricultural engineering, Nano engineering, material science engineering, ocean development and utilization engineering, low-carbon engineering, information and social management engineering, south-to-north water diversion engineering and urbanization engineering and so on.

Orange, if grows in the south, it is orange; but if grows in the north, it becomes trifoliate orange. Different cultures cultivate different engineering concepts and then produce different engineering practices; and same engineering concept, under different cultural background, will undoubtedly lead to different results. However, the absorption of new engineering concept and method will change the nation’s notion, system and the direction of cultural evolution. The mutual influence between engineering technology and culture has been proved in history. So the vision and practice of our magazine cannot be restricted to interdisciplinary study of engineering academics, but will extend to the field of cross-cultural study of engineering academics. And we sincerely hope that our action will help to explore the engineering concept that fits China’s national condition and also with Chinese characteristics. We would love to contribute, even a little bit, to China’s way to the giant engineering nation under Chinese cultural soil in the world.

If you give me papaya, I will give you jade.

Dear authors, in the times ahead, we will devote all our energy into your articles and work jointly with you to display your thoughts and talent completely and accurately.

Dear readers, in the times ahead, we will continue to work hard and focus on planning and reality to provide you fresh engineering concept, humanistic care and try to enrich your heart and mind.

We will sail the boat and march unservingly till we obtain the victory.

Our journal will develop with the care of all the readers and charge ahead with the prosperity of our nation.