

## FOREWORD

# “Acoustical Science and Technology” — An improved version of the “Journal of the Acoustical Society of Japan (E)” —

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The Acoustical Society of Japan has been publishing its official English journal, the “Journal of Acoustical Society of Japan (E)” since 1980. This Journal, JASJ(E), was first quarterly, but since 1986 it has been published bimonthly. This journal includes such articles as “papers”, “technical reports”, “short notes”, and “acoustical letters” covering myriad research fields of acoustics. In the past 21 years, JASJ(E) has been providing important scientific findings concerning basic acoustics as well as the most up-to-date technologies while continuing to publish many outstanding culture-specific findings in speech communication, speech/noise/music sound databases, biomedical issues such as traffic noise biohazards, as well as musical instruments/performance and architectural treasures.

The Editorial Board of the Society has been considering raising the status of the Journal as well as spreading its circulation in the past several years. As a result, it has chosen to embark on a new publishing style — an electric online journal — from the beginning of the new century to increase and diffuse knowledge of acoustics and promote its technological application. The online journal will become the most popular style in the academic world and it is expected that excellent papers and articles will be more easily accessed by many readers while related papers will be easily referred.

Taking this opportunity, the title of the journal has been changed to “Acoustical Science and Technology”. We are very pleased and proud to inform you of this new title because our Society is characterized by its wide coverage of both scientific and technological research fields. Of course, this renamed Journal is succeeding JASJ(E), and the first issue is this Volume 22, No. 1. This online journal will become available online by the middle of 2001 after technical settlements through J-STAGE (<http://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/EN/>).

In addition to the online journal, the printed version will also be continuously published until such time as the electric journal has become thoroughly popular. From this issue, the cover design has been changed as well.

To make the journal more international, contributions from countries other than Japan, especially Western Pacific countries, are very sincerely invited. Although this Journal will be still issued under editorship of the Acoustical Society of Japan, we would like to promote its internationalization with our International Advisory Members. Moreover, moving to the electric online journal will shorten and simplify the process from contribution to publishing. The Editorial Board is now discussing all possible improvements of paper contribution procedures. You are very welcome to contribution to “Acoustical Science and Technology”.