

FOREWORD

Foreword to the special issue on “Applied Systems”

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The Acoustical Society of Japan (ASJ) is the second largest society in the area of acoustics, with approximately 4,600 members. ASJ holds meetings twice a year and about 600 papers are presented in each meeting. ASJ has 8 technical committees and each technical committee holds a monthly meeting, in which over 800 papers are presented yearly. Nevertheless, the number of published papers in the ASJ Japanese journal and the Acoustical Science and Technology (AST) journal, the English journal of ASJ, is not so many.

The editorial board of ASJ has looked into the reasons behind this situation and found that one possible reason is the difficulty of presenting some issues to the journals of ASJ, even if these issues are beneficial research or developments related to acoustics. In particular, manuscripts concerning the development of applied systems for acoustics and/or acoustic engineering were sometimes rejected because they lacked comparisons with traditional methods or discussions regarding the novelty of the proposed theories. This could have lead to a decrease in the number of submitted manuscripts on applied systems. The editorial board of ASJ has considered whether detailed reports on the production of new applied systems could also contribute to the expansion of acoustics.

Therefore, to remedy this situation, the editorial board of ASJ has modified the definition of papers in the “Guide for Contributors” to be broader and thereby allow the

submission of manuscripts on applied systems, that is, papers should be based on original research or report findings regarding basic or *applied* problems that are considered to make a significant contribution to any field of acoustics or acoustic engineering. Also, the editorial board of ASJ is planning to release a special issue on “Applied Systems” to the ASJ Japanese journal first and then to the AST, not only to announce the modified guideline and invite contributors to submit manuscripts, but also to show some examples of that belong to the “Applied Systems” area.

Consequently, 16 papers were published in the ASJ Japanese journal (Vol. 62, No. 3, 2006). Currently, 10 manuscripts have been submitted for the special issue of AST, and the editorial board of ASJ has finally accepted 8 papers to be published. Those papers are in the following areas.

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| Electroacoustics | 3 papers |
| Speech | 4 papers |
| Ultrasonics | 1 paper |

The ASJ Japanese journal and AST have just stepped forward and are now addressing issues from wider areas. The editorial board of ASJ wishes that many beneficial papers related to acoustics and acoustic engineering will be published in both the ASJ Japanese journal and AST and that will contribute to the exciting progress of acoustics.

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