Introducing the IMEJ: A new home for the dissemination of research and development in marine renewable energy

A. S. Bahaj

ACCESS to energy is a fundamental enabler for progress and development. Conventional energy supplies rely mainly on fossil fuels impacting our health and environment. Renewable energy technologies for electrical power production provide an effective way to alleviate our dependence on polluting fuels. The resources for these technologies are driven by natural phenomenon such as solar radiation, geothermal heat and the rotational kinetic energy of the earth. The oceans which cover more than two-thirds of our planet collect, distribute and concentrate these renewable resources in the form of offshore wind, ocean thermal energy, wave and tidal energy. The *International Marine Energy Journal* (IMEJ) addresses the latter two.

Within our oceans energy changes resulting from the gravitational effects of the planetary motions of the earth, the moon and the sun, produce the tides that drive marine currents which can be converted using technologies not too dissimilar to those used in wind energy. Wave energy is transported by wind-driven waves, ultimately derived from solar energy, also providing a very large resource that can be exploited for electrical power production. Both wave and tidal energy are frequently referred to as emerging technologies that have the potential of successfully augmenting existing renewable energy technologies. Today, technologies harnessing energy from the tides and marine currents are at a more advanced stage of development than their wave counterparts. It is evident from recent deployment of single to multiple devices at MW scale that real progress in tidal development has been achieved. The conversion of wave and tidal energy is collectively termed "marine energy".

The *International Marine Energy Journal* (IMEJ) deals with research and development in the renewable marine energy arena. It is a bold new initiative by the marine renewable energy community. It is an open-access only journal where authors maintain copyright over their work. By "cutting out the middle man" of the traditional academic publisher, the journal is able to operate a lean, online-only platform which will keep the costs of publishing as low as possible, and substantially lower than traditional publishers. There will be no diminution of quality however; all articles to be published in IMEJ will undergo rigorous single-blind peer review by at least two independent expert referees, after initial screening with industry-standard anti-plagiarism software.

IMEJ justifies its 'I' by a genuinely international Editorial Board of renowned experts in the field who are committed to provide the Journal's global contributors and readers the best in depth coverage of important areas of marine and offshore renewable energy as well as to provide coherence and direction to the journal.

IMEJ will publish research articles covering theoretical, experimental and applied studies in the science, engineering and development of wave and tidal energy. It will also publish authoritative and up-to-date review articles. With the help of its Editorial Board, we plan to build the status of the journal and to expand its areas of coverage as well as to invite highly relevant and targeted special issues of the journal. Applications for ISSN, indexed through the major bibliographic databases, enhancing access to articles and their citations in underway.

With the support of the Executive Board of the European Wave and Tidal Energy Conference (EWTEC), IMEJ has been selected to publish special issues of this highly respected conference, of which this inaugural issue is the first. All articles selected for the special issue have been peer reviewed by two reviewers and specifically recommended for inclusion. The authors are drawn from a diverse range of disciplines – including fluid mechanics, mechanical and civil engineering, oceanography, control systems, environmental impacts and economics. I hope that you will agree that they have brought both breadth and depth of expertise, along with technical quality, to this inaugural issue of the International Marine Energy Journal.

A. S. Bahaj is Editor-in-Chief of IMEJ and Professor of Sustainable Energy at the University of Southampton, SO17 1BJ, UK (e-mail editor-in-chief@marineenergyjournal.org)

As the Editor-in-Chief, I look forward to working with authors, reviewers, researchers, the Editorial Board and all stakeholders in this important field of marine energy. Together we can succeed to build IMEJ as the prime vehicle for the dissemination of our research and development in the important area of marine energy conversion technologies and studies.

Prof AbuBakr S. Bahaj
Editor-in-Chief