T HIS is my fourth and last year as the Editor-in-Chief of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INDUSTRIAL INFORMATICS. That has been an exhilarating period full of effort to turn a newly established journal into a quality publication with an international standing.

The IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INDUSTRIAL INFORMATICS has undergone a remarkable transformation over the past few years, and it has matured to be one of the most sought-after publication venues for material on advances in industrial information technology, with submissions streaming in from academia and industry alike. The projected number of submissions in 2010 is 400, well up from 155 in 2006. The projected number of published pages is also growing fast with more than 720 pages to be published in 2010, compared to 356 published in 2006. So is the number of Special Sections/Special Issues, six (6) in 2010, which is a clear indication of the internationally recognized standing of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INDUSTRIAL INFORMATICS. The combination of the number of submissions/pages published and a high Impact Factor (IF), in addition to the markedly improved quality of the material published, makes the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INDUSTRIAL INFORMATICS one of the top IEEE research journals.

The fastest growing submission areas are real-time systems, and (networked) embedded systems. In 2010, the two areas displaced specialized networks as the areas with the largest number of papers published—totaling 57% of all papers published. The IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INDUSTRIAL INFORMATICS is the leading IEEE publication of the material on real-time systems, and (networked) embedded systems. In 2010, the two technical areas were followed by control systems, 17%, specialized networks, 13%, and industrial software, 11%, to mention some of the major contribution areas.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Associate Editors—some of the leading researchers and practitioners from academia and industry from all over the world, many of whom had also served as Associate Editors in other journals as well as Editors-in-Chief of other IEEE TRANSACTIONS—who dedicated their talent, effort, and time to ensure the journal published quality material in a timely manner and relevant to the profession. A major contribution here had Reviewers, who offered their time and expertise to provide authors with ample feedback to help them improve their submissions. Their contribution is greatly appreciated. I also wish to express my gratitude to my colleagues from the past IES administrations who entrusted me this important task.

Publishing IEEE TRANSACTIONS is a complicated process which requires dedication. Here, I would like to express my gratitude to all individuals involved in this process, and in particular to Jeffrey E. Cichocki and Martin Morahan, Managing Editors, and Farah Pedley, Associate Editor, and Patricia Pena, Senior Editor, from the Transactions/Journals Department, responsible for the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INDUSTRIAL INFORMATICS, who have provided generous assistance to the Editor-in-Chief.

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