

Editorial message

Welcome to the first issue of Borneo Journal of Marine Science and Aquaculture (BJoMSA), an official publication of Universiti Malaysia Sabah, led by Borneo Marine Research Institute (BMRI). We couldn't be more excited to have made it to this point.

The idea of having a journal has been around since the establishment of BMRI but we mobilized our resources to first establish the research credentials that could measure up to the international standards before accepting this challenge. It goes to the credit of the current Director of BMRI, Prof. Dr. Rossita Shapawi, for taking the bold decision of launching the Journal in 2017.

Being an official publication of Universiti Malaysia Sabah, a premier institution of higher education, the Journal's performance will be periodically reviewed based on standard indicators and metrics.

BJoMSA has come up at a time when publishing environment has become very competitive due to the presence of an ever increasing number of journals. However, world-class institutions are also applying yardsticks to measure the quality of publications through a variety of metrics. This gives us reasons for optimism that our journal will emerge out due to the prime importance that it attaches to the quality of papers and their relevance.

Our deliberate decision is not to restrict the scope of the Journal to highly specialized topics. This is not to exclude papers on specialized topics because we believe that increasing specialization promotes progress within a discipline. However, new challenges that keep surfacing often require tackling problems that are broad enough to be addressed through an integrative approach through a greater flow of communication among specialties. Aquaculture and marine science are the areas where integrative and cross-disciplinary approaches offer solutions to problems such as those related to marine biodiversity conservation, ocean acidification, sustainable aquaculture, responsible fisheries and seafood security. There are many basic and applied research questions in these areas that demand a more holistic and integrative understanding, transcending the boundaries of disciplinary specialties. With its wide scope, BJoMSA will provide a platform for such work based on cross-fertilization. This will promote a greater communication among disciplines with shared problem-solving goals.

The Journal will welcome papers that are based on strong evidence, thorough analysis, and synthesis of knowledge, and which are also well-articulated to lay out the context of the research.

Our editorial team comprises distinguished experts from various parts of the world in addition to our highly motivated scholars who render in-house support. Their inspiring advice and professional help are invaluable. Reviewers who form the solid foundation of our journal's assessment system help in selecting high-quality papers for publication. Of course, authors are the ones who submit their research contributions to make publication of the Journal possible. We are thankful to all of them.

We thank the executive management of our university for reposing faith in our ability to produce this journal, the publication unit for providing assistance wherever necessary and the Journal's secretariat for intense engagement in the form of handling the difficult part of manuscript processing on a day-to-day basis. We look forward to this sort of cooperation and support from all the active players to our endeavor of developing BJoMSA to its full potential of high impact metrics.

We will welcome suggestions and innovative ideas from readers for continuing to improve BJoMSA.

With thanks.

Prof. Dr. Saleem Mustafa (Editor-in-Chief)

Dr. Chen Cheng Ann (Managing Editor)
