

The 2nd Asian Science Editors conference and workshop (CASE 2015 – Council of Asian Science Editors)

20-22 August 2015, Hanoi, Vietnam

Writing scientific papers that meet international standards and consequently improving the quality of local scientific journals are important issues, concerning editors, scientists, and researchers in many Asian countries. The Council of Asian Science Editors (CASE) 2015 conference and workshop were held in Vietnam, hosted by Hanoi University of Science and Technology. The aim of the conference was to help promote scientific journals, not only from Vietnam, but from all Asian countries, internationally. This event drew the attention of the Vietnamese authorities, who attended the opening session, such as HE Nguyen Quan, Minister of Science and Technology; HE Phan Xuan Dung, Chairman of Science, Technology and the Environment of the National Assembly; HE Nguyen Minh Hong, Vice-Minister of Information and Communications. The conference also welcomed guests from international associations, such as Professor Jong Kyu Ha from Seoul National University, Korea, President of CASE and Dr Joan Marsh, President of EASE. There were 230 participants from universities, research institutes and journals in Vietnam, and 51 editors from well known journals and publishers throughout Asia and Europe.

The conference plenary sessions covered three questions: 1) the role of editors' organisations; 2) open access for scholarly articles, and 3) CrossRef, CrossCheck and how to add local journals to international databases. Joan Marsh shared her experiences of the successful running of EASE based on team work and collaboration. Her tip to any leader: support people in their own preferred activities in your association, then you can gain better results from them in return. Networking internationally is another way to strengthen an association's position. At this conference, she showed the evidence of this, while inviting participants to prepare a Vietnamese version of the *EASE Guidelines for Authors and Translators of Scientific Articles to be Published in English*.

Pre- and post- conference workshops were unforgettable parts of the event. Overall, seven workshops drew participants to particular topics covering almost all activities and procedures in the journal. Workshop 1 was lead by Korean presenters, focusing on three technical issues: Journal Articles Tag Set (JATS) XML, CrossRef XML, and Science Central. This workshop gave editors and publishers the tools to enable them to index their journals in international databases, as well as to detect plagiarism.

Workshop 2 entitled: "Bridging the gap between your journal and your authors" was presented by Clarinda Cerejo, Editor in Chief, Editage Insights Editage, Mumbai, India. Different areas of misunderstanding between journals and authors were pointed out. The speaker suggested that it would be better if editors try to understand the pain point of the authors and help them.

Workshop 3 entitled: "Assessing a manuscript in-house before sending to peer review" was presented by Joan Marsh. The topic focused on the role of peer review and the reason why manuscripts should be assessed carefully before they are sent for peer review. The procedure of assessment was explained in detail. However, through the session, the discussion turned to journal structure and how to run a journal successfully in terms of satisfaction for both editors and authors. It confirmed that when a journal understands what its authors need, then it can keep them engaged as authors and reviewers.

Workshop 4 addressed the topics of "Working with peer reviewers and publication ethics" by Duc Le from Elsevier, UK Editor-in-Chief of EBioMedicine. The principles of peer publishing, as well as ethical aspects when handling a scientific paper from submission through peer-review to publication, were introduced and discussed. Workshop 5 gave instruction on how to write a scientific paper clearly and concisely in English, while Workshops 6 and 7 introduced the steps required to improve a journal towards international standards and indexing in international databases. The meeting truly fulfilled its aim. Participants gained knowledge and set up a network of editors and publishers. We look forward to CASE 2016 in Korea.

All presentations are available at the conference website: <http://asianeditor.org/event/2015/index.php>

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