

Address to the retiring Editor in Chief of *HSJ* Demetris Koutsoyiannis

Dear *HSJ* readers and lovers, colleagues and friends,

Finding a fair and sufficiently fulfilling way to express our gratitude and appreciation for Demetris Koutsoyiannis' 12-year Editorship of *Hydrological Sciences Journal* (2006–2017) is simply an impossible mission. His dedication, loyalty and love for *HSJ* as Deputy Editor (2006–2009), Co-Editor (2010–2014) and Editor-in-Chief (2015–2017) go beyond any conceivable description.

Scientifically speaking, Demetris is certainly a beloved son of *HSJ*. As he often points out during training courses on scientific writing for young scientists, many of his top-cited articles are published in *HSJ*. Ironically, the very same articles were originally rejected by other scientific journals. It took the broad vision and intellectual means of Zbyszek Kundzewicz, at that time solo Editor of *HSJ* to understand the potential impact, value, rigour and scientific spark of Demetris' work. Indeed, Demetris is a great scientist, who has been awarded the International Hydrology Prize–Dooge Medal in 2014 by the International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS) with the UNESCO and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and the Henry Darcy Medal in 2009 by the European Geosciences Union (EGU).

Confusingly enough, Demetris is certainly also a father of *HSJ*. He is the father of *HSJ* 2.0, having successfully brought the journal into the digital era. Demetris rejuvenated the oldest international hydrological journal (62 years in 2017), reinventing it in many ways, keeping it beautiful and relevant. The current journal status and consideration from our scientific community are largely to Demetris' credit. Demetris is also a scientific father figure and mentor for *HSJ* Editorial Team, the editors and associate editors, as well as the editorial office in Wallingford, UK. They perfectly sensed over the years the two governing pillars that shaped his guidance of the journal:

(1) *HSJ* is a home and its Editorial Team a family, and it is the Editor's responsibility and duty to treat them with tender love and care. For instance, under Demetris' Co-Editorship, the first and memorable Editors' Retreat was held in Kos, back-to-back with the joint 2013 STAHY / EGU Leonardo / Hydro-fractals conference. The retreat, sponsored by Taylor & Francis, provided the *HSJ* editorial team with an intense 2-day opportunity for in-depth discussion on the current status and future opportunities of the journal in a very informal and familiar atmosphere. The retreat was a great success and became an instant classic for *HSJ*; it shaped the vision for several years to come and set the journal agenda, but, more importantly, it enabled the team members to put faces and personal anecdotes to names that, before then, they only knew through email exchanges.

(2) Fair and responsible ethical behaviour is the backbone and vital essence of the peer-review system; without it, the whole system would collapse. It is well known in our community that Demetris strongly promotes eponymous reviewing, and since 1998 all of his reviews have been signed, because, as in one of his favorite quotes (from Aristotle): "Plato is my dear friend, yet the truth is dearest". Demetris' attitude towards peer-review ethics and his longtime pursuit for fair, clear, and explicit roles and rules in peer reviewing fostered, in 2011 (as the outcome of a meeting of Editors and associate editors during the IAHS General Assembly in Melbourne, Australia), the first "*HSJ Associate Editors' Decalogue*" to guide associate editors in their role as both reviewers and mentors. The decalogue was frequently updated, at the Kos Editorial Retreat and most

recently, in 2017 during the second Editorial Retreat in Port Elizabeth (South Africa), and its 10 propositions still represent a fundamental behavioral reference for both newly appointed and more experienced associate editors. As well as having a tremendous sense of humour, Demetris is a stickler for accuracy, and he also instigated much more stringent attention to the use of SI units and correct mathematical notation in *HSJ*. Consequently, at the IAHS Assembly in Gothenburg, Sweden, he initiated a group discussion with other hydrology journal editors, the outcome of which was the “*Guidelines for the use of units, symbols and equations in hydrology*” in 2013¹.

Demetris’ concerns and pioneering perception on the potential negative impact and distorting effects of giving excessive attention and interest to bibliometric indices are also well known in our community. Therefore, I hope he will forgive us if we indulge in the fact that he is certainly a titan in *HSJ*-bibliometrics. Without a doubt, Demetris’ scientific production plays a direct and crucial role in *HSJ*’s impact: his *HSJ*-only 2-year 2017 Impact Factor is equal to 5 (i.e. Demetris’ six papers published in *HSJ* between 2014 and 2015 received 30 citations in 2016), which is more than twice the entire journal’s 2016 impact factor (2.222; Journal Citation Reports 2017). His *HSJ*-only h-index (hsj-index) is now 20, and he is the author, or co-author, of six *HSJ* papers that have in excess of 100 citations each; this brings him very close to *HSJ* Champion Zbyszek Kundzewicz (hsj-index: 22; seven *HSJ* papers with 100+ citations). The next Editors-in-Chief of the journal (included the current one...) certainly have a difficult task ahead of them, given the scientific stature of their two predecessors and the benchmarks they have set.

Demetris Koutsoyiannis is therefore a role model and a great source of inspiration for the *HSJ* Editorial Team, and we are personally looking forward to his renewed involvement as our mentor and guide and as an author and reviewer of *HSJ* papers for many years to come.

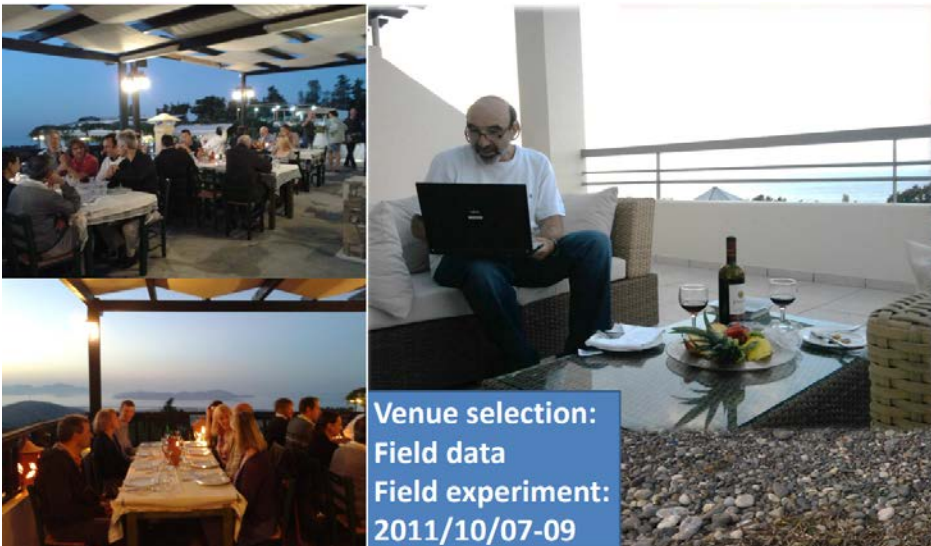
Dear Demetris, thank you for your service and dedication to *HSJ* on behalf of IAHS and the *HSJ* Editorial Team. On a more personal note, thanks for your patience, guidance and trust.

Attilio Castellarin
HSJ Editor-in-Chief

Frances Watkins
HSJ Editorial Manager



Demetris Koutsoyiannis being awarded with the 2014 Dooge Medal (IAHS International Hydrology Prize), left to right: Blanca Jimenez-Cisneros (Director, Division of Water Sciences, UNESCO), Hubert Savenije (President, IAHS), (IHP/Dooge medallist) and Bruce Stewart (Director, Climate and Water Department, WMO) (Photo by Wovencontent).



Kos *HSJ* Editorial Retreat 2013: the Retreat dinner held at a mountainside restaurant as the sun set over the islands of Kalymnos and Pserimos to the north (left); and field experiments and numerical simulation for identifying the optimal venue for the Editors' Retreat (right).



Port Elizabeth *HSJ* Editorial Retreat 2017. Left to right: Attilio Castellarin, Elena Volpi, Julian Thompson, Demetris Koutsoyiannis, Guillaume Thirel, Alberto Viglione, Aldo Fiori, Kate Heal, Ross Woods, Eilise Norris, Christophe Cudennec and Flavia Tauro.