

A Letter to our Readers and Contributors Regarding this Special Issue on Thermodynamics Dedicated to ECOS'09

This special issue and the one that is to follow have been dedicated to a number of high quality papers first presented at the 22nd *International Conference on the Efficiency, Cost, Optimization, Simulation and Environmental Impact of Energy Systems (ECOS)* held in Foz do Ignacu – Paraná, Brazil in August-September of 2009 and organized by the State University of Campinas, the University of São Paulo, and the Federal University of Santa Catarina. These papers came highly recommended to the editors of *IJoT* from the scientific committee of *ECOS'09* and in particular from the conference chairs, Profs. Silvia Azucena Nebra, Silvio de Oliveira Júnior, and Edson Bazzo. These chairs in turn were asked to work closely with us as guest editors to help organize our special issues, a process facilitated by our new on-line journal system. I would like to express my thanks to them for their efforts. Although all the papers came highly recommended, they nonetheless underwent or are currently undergoing our rigorous peer review process in order to assure that the quality of the papers published for these two special issues is indeed up to the standards that we have continuously maintained for our journal over the years.

As to the subjects covered, they include a number of different areas of thermodynamics from the theoretical to the applied. Of the five papers appearing in the September special issue, such diverse topics as the exergoeconomic analysis of a chemical looping power plant, the thermodynamic analyses of coal-based methanol-power polygeneration and the use of absorption chillers for cooling in ethanol fermentation, the exergy analysis of human respiration, and the non-equilibrium thermodynamic modeling and analysis of a high-temperature fuel cell. Several additional papers are planned for the next special issue. The exact number is as of yet unclear since the review process for some of the remaining papers has not yet been completed. Nonetheless, the next special issue should be as diverse (if not more so) as the present. The editorial staff and I hope that you find these papers as interesting as we have.

Michael R. von Spakovsky