

Editorial**SWAT Special Issue published in IJABE****Wang Yingkuan***(Chinese Academy of Agricultural Engineering, Beijing 100125, China)*

Abstract: The Editor-in-Chief of IJABE is pleased to publish this SWAT special issue including one editorial overview and ten research papers, which will be open access to the full-text of each paper. Brief summaries of the process of collecting and reviewing the submitted papers for this SWAT special issue are provided. Acknowledgements were given to all the editors, reviewers and authors, with special thanks to the lead guest editor Dr. Philip W. Gassman for his leading role and great job, including a complete listing of associate editors. We have published this special issue in both print and online electronic version. The online version will provide open access to the full text of each paper free of charge and free of most of copyright restrictions.

Keywords: IJABE, SWAT special issue, special column

DOI: 10.3965/j.ijabe.20150803.editorial

Citation: Wang Y K. Editorial: SWAT Special Issue published in IJABE. Int J Agric & Biol Eng, 2015; 8(3): 01–02.

Editor's announcement of SWAT special issue published

Dear authors and readers, I am pleased to announce the publishing of this SWAT special issue of IJABE after almost two years' continuous efforts. This special issue including one editorial overview and ten research papers, has been formally published now, though those papers have been posted online first via the IJABE website (www.ijabe.org) from September of 2014 to May of 2015. Those papers cover a wide range of topics including applications of the SWAT model that were performed in four countries on four different continents: USA, Brazil, China, and Ethiopia. There is also one article reporting new SWAT code and other software developments. The editorial overview co-authored by Gassman and Wang will serve as a guide to better reading and understanding of the ten research papers in this SWAT special issue of IJABE (Gassman P W, Wang Y K. IJABE SWAT Special Issue: Innovative modeling solutions for water resource problems. Int J Agric & Biol Eng, 2015; 8(3): 1-8. Accessed at www.ijabe.org since June 30, 2015). This SWAT special issue including well-screened SWAT papers will reflect broader trends in the past SWAT literature and provide valuable insights regarding SWAT-related advancements. I believe those leading SWAT research papers will serve readers and

SWAT-related researchers well with new ideas, methods, data, findings and enlightenment.

Editorial process and open access

It was not so easy to complete this special issue. In June 2013, Dr. Philip W. Gassman and I met in Bogor, Indonesia when we attended the 2013 SWAT-SEA III Conference. We discussed the plan to publish a SWAT special issue in IJABE collected from SWAT-related conferences. From then on, we worked hard at soliciting and reviewing papers. We had planned to publish the special issue in 2014. However, we had to postpone the special issue till now. Dr. Gassman attended SWAT conferences in Indonesia, France, Japan, Brazil and Italy during the past two years. It is interesting that I took a technical tour to Provence, France after heading a Chinese delegation to attend International Conference on Precision Agriculture in Lleida, Spain when Dr. Gassman attended SWAT 2013 Conference in Toulouse, France. We stayed very close away from each other. Dr. Gassman presented at those conferences, and communicated with participants about the special issue. His great efforts led to the success of this special issue. With nearly 30 submissions for this special issue, after strict peer review and numerous revisions, ten papers have been accepted for this issue. We have published this special issue in both print and online

electronic version. The online version will provide open access to the full text of each paper free of charge and free of most of copyright restrictions. All of you are welcome and encouraged to download, read and use those papers so long as they are properly attributed, acknowledged and cited.

Editor's acknowledgements

This SWAT special issue, would not have been possible without the support of many individuals, including the IJABE section editor Dr. Philip W. Gassman serving as Lead Guest Editor, together with the associate editors listed below. As the Editor-in-Chief of IJABE, I would like to thank all the people who contributed to the SWAT special issue. I'd like to give my special thanks to Dr. Gassman, who played a leading role for this special issue. Dr. Gassman in particular has been involved in all stages of review, revision and production and has graciously spent tens of hours in reviewing and revising each paper and dealing with questions that I have had in the course of editing. Dr. Gassman always gave an important and permanent contribution to the increased reputation of IJABE as a journal. He has been dedicated to the journal by contributing international communication for indexing and coverage, and supporting the editorial board of IJABE by providing assistance with his advice and work anytime. He has also been a critical reviewer and contributor to this special issue, but more importantly, a warm, kind and helpful friend. His compassion and commitment to rigorous scholarship are evident in contributions to both this special issue and IJABE.

Likewise, I'd like to thank my colleague, A/Prof. Xin Shiqiang who has been very helpful in the final stages of this issue production. I would also like to thank all the associate editors listed below, who have taken time to review papers and have graciously offered their perspectives on improving the science and writing of submissions. Without their generosity and enthusiasm, this special issue would not have gone smoothly. Most of all, I would like to thank the contributors to this issue, who have given so much of their time and effort to help create this collection of excellent SWAT research papers.

The Section Editor and LWE Associate Editors who supported the special issue process in various ways are listed here:

Philip W. Gassman, IJABE Section Editor and Lead Guest Editor of IJABE SWAT Special Issue, Center for Agricultural and Rural Development, Iowa State University, United States

Antonio Lo porto, Water Research Institute, Italian National Research Council, Italy

Hiroaki Somura, Shimane University, Japan

Manuel R Reyes, North Carolina A&T State University, United States

Manoj K. Jha, Civil Engineering Department, North Carolina A&T University, United States

Michael W. Van Liew, Biological Systems Engineering Department, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, United States

Mukand Singh Babel, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand

Xiuying (Susan) Wang, Texas A&M University, United States

Victor B. Ella, University of the Philippines Los Banos, Philippines

Editor's forecast of future special SWAT Section

Although there must be arguably a very positive advantage of the quality and popularity of this SWAT special issue, it did present some production-related challenges. The most serious thing is that these challenges almost invariably cause publication delays relative to what could have been achieved if the papers had been published individually in a regular issue of IJABE, because the final publication date is tied to the slowest paper to make it through the production cycle. Even so, there are still some papers that are not ready for publishing in this special issue. In order to avoid the delay in production and to publish those SWAT special issue articles as soon as possible, IJABE will make possible the publication of SWAT papers in a special section in the future issue of IJABE as they are accepted. We will post those accepted SWAT papers online first, and then include several papers in the special SWAT section in most recent issue of IJABE.