The Letter from the Editor

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Editor-in-Chief

I am pleased that KONA No.23 has been issued in due course as usual. If you look at the KONA editorial board shown in the back cover, you will find a minor change in the Asian and Oceania members. That is, Prof. Y. Kang (Chungnam National Univ., Korea) and Prof. M. Rhodes (Monash Univ., Australia) have joined us as new editorial board members. Both professors have taken over from Prof. S. H. Kang (Korea) and Prof. P. Arnold (Australia), respectively. I should like to express sincere thanks to Prof. S. H. Kang and Prof. P. Arnolds for their devoted cooperation in KONA for many years.

In this Letter from the Editor, allow me to write something about language problems which many non-native speakers of English have. Research is not completed before writing reports or papers. Needless to say, the language to be in use is English in KONA as in almost all international journals in the world. The language handicap is serious for non-native speakers of English. I myself am non-native of English and so I really understand and feel this handicap.

The language handicap is most apparent in debating in an international meeting where the common language is English. Native speakers and non-native speakers are not in the same position. If you assimilate this handicap to a sport, the situation is similar to the case where a right handed player of tennis is forced to use the left hand in play. Compared with the case of debating, the handicap in writing is lighter, but still the writing skill greatly reduces under the condition that mother language is prohibited. Delicate or sophisticated expressions are difficult for lack of vocabulary. Above all, it takes a long time for them to translate their articles from the mother language to English. Sometimes researchers can not afford to spend much time to translate their papers and are eager to advance in their work. As a result, many researchers of non-native of English are satisfied with writing articles in their mother language different from English. Many good works have not published in English. They remain unknown in other countries.

Fortunately, KONA has an unique editorial system to be a truly international journal. We have three regional editorial boards in the world: American Board, Europe/African Board and Asian/Oceania Board. The three regional boards cover very wide areas in the world. In some areas, English is spoken and in other areas, not spoken. Each board has the responsibility to collect good articles from the region. Good articles which have not written originally in English are published in KONA as translated articles in English. The mission of an international journal is to find out qualified information from every corner of the world and provide such information to other world. As the editor-in-chief, I will endeavor to make KONA continue to perform this important mission.