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Editorial preface

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Dear Readers,

At the beginning of this issue 59(131), I would like to pass on an important message to all of our readers. On 31 July 2019, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education published a communiqué concerning the list of scientific journals and peer-reviewed materials from international conferences with a number of points assigned. The Scientific Journals of the Maritime University of Szczecin were submitted for evaluation by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education in three disciplines: 1) civil engineering and transport, 2) mechanical engineering, 3) environmental engineering, mining and energy, and received 20 points based on the opinion of the advisory panels.

As Editor-in-Chief of the Scientific Journals of the Maritime University of Szczecin, I have made it my goal to develop the journal by attracting new authors and publishing high-quality scientific papers. To achieve this, I have decided to expand the subject matter of this journal. From the next issue 60(132) onwards, scientific papers will be published in the following thematic groups:

- mechanical engineering;
- civil engineering and transport;
- environmental engineering, mining and energy;
- automation, electronic and electrical engineering;
- information and communication technology;
- management and quality studies;
- miscellaneous.

Expanding the subject matter of the scientific papers will make the quarterly Scientific Journals of the Maritime University of Szczecin an interdisciplinary publication. In the future, this should increase the standing of our quarterly publication on the national and international arenas and allow us to obtain a higher score in the next list of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, which is to be published in two years.

In this issue of MUS Scientific Journals, we present the results of nineteen studies published in four disciplines: Marine Technology and Innovation, Navigation and Maritime Transport, Transport Engineering, and Miscellaneous.

Marine Engineering & Innovation contains three articles. The author of the first paper presents the effectiveness of WHR hydrogen technology and a mathematical model of a relevant system intended to increase the efficiency of a ship power plant. The next paper presents issues related to recycling watercraft and the benefits of such undertakings for the natural environment and economy. The third paper presents the results of hardness tests of laminated composites reinforced with crushed polyester-glass recycle.

In the second section, Navigation and Maritime Transport, there are two articles. The first one covers issues related to the mathematical optimization of the shift schedules of a ship's crew. In the second paper, the authors present very interesting findings of research on modelling an unmanned vessel equipped with ecological electric drive.

The third section, Transport Engineering, contains ten articles. The authors of these papers address issues related to the organization and management of transport engineering in sea ports and the significance of inland waterways in transport systems and the transport's impact on the maritime economy. In this section, the reader will also find papers on inland tourism, integrated transport, and the environmental impacts of the latter.

The fourth section, Miscellaneous, contains four articles. The first paper presents an analysis of how the GDP dynamics in the EU from 2009-2018 were influenced by intellectual property development expenditures. Another paper studies the use of a participatory budget as a tool to support sustainable urban development. The third article presents the findings of studies on the production of the lipase enzyme from *Pseudomonas Aeruginosa* used in biotechnological processes. In the last paper, the author presents legal issues concerning plastics polluting marine environments.

All readers are invited to visit our website <http://scientific-journals.eu>, where, in the near future, they will find information about expanding the subject matter of papers published in the Scientific Journals of the Maritime University of Szczecin. All information on the article publication process and full texts of articles from this issue 59(131) and previous issues will be published at this site, as well.

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Robert Jasionowski, PhD
Editor-In-Chief
Szczecin, 30.09.2019