Dear IEJEE readers,

This special issue of the *International Electronic Journal of Elementary Education (IEJEE)* is devoted to one of the most current and important educational topics of our time: ***Learning and Instruction in the Natural Sciences*** *(K-10 focus)*. **Drs. Florencia K. Anggoro** *and* **Benjamin D. Jee** of the College of the Holy Cross, USA, have done a great job as special issue editors. I am very grateful for the scientific editorialship they have accomplished as two active scholars in their field.

Our generation has experienced many technological developments, innovative solutions and challenging aspects of information society and knowledge society. As contemporary educators we have been witnesses to the debates on learning and instruction in the Natural Sciences in our countries. Since the 1990s comparative international studies, i.e. the *Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS)* and the new demands in the national and globalized labor markets revealed that the educational systems in all countries have to reconsider their existing approaches to the teaching of natural sciences.

As the world is transforming to a knowledge society, our educational systems necessitate appropriate perspectives on and approaches to curriculum development, teaching methods, and the creation of learning environments for natural sciences. All are for the sake of our children, our environmental consciousness, and our future.

Dr. Anggoro and Dr. Jee have succeeded in bringing together papers on this challenging topic from prominent researchers. I am sure, as a reader, you'll be delighted to have the opportunity to read the papers that were written with the aim of contributing to enhancing learning and instruction in the natural sciences. You'll find creative papers and papers that present new ideas and trends and papers that inform us about the new approaches in this area. Regardless of whether we are teachers, teacher educators, and/or educational researchers, this special issue of the International Electronic Journal of Elementary Education (IEJEE) will give us several useful ideas originating from applied cognitive theory.

This well presented special issue hopefully will be one of our sources of inspiration to continue to be a part of the amazing educational field of *learning and instruction in the natural sciences*. This affiliation include some commitments: Working for a better learning and teaching environments in natural sciences in all stages of our educational systems. This is due to the fact that the natural sciences as a school subject suffers alack of qualified teachers and interest from young students. I hope this special issue will make its contribution and will inspire more and more youngsters in our countries and environments to be a part of our circle of natural scientists.

This is the fourth special issue of IEJEE since 2006. Without tireless efforts of Dr. Anggoro and Dr. Jee, it would not be possible to present this issue. I want to express my gratitude to both of them. I also want to thank all the contributors to this special issue. It's a great honor for me to make their knowledge accessible to the readers in the entire world.

I also want to thank Dr. Karen Michele Zabrucky, Dr. Turan Temur and Dr. Gökhan Özsoy for all the academic advising, professional coordination, and the tireless technical contribution they have done for the realization of this special issue.

Dr. Kamil Özerk
Editor in Chief