

## WORDS FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Welcome to the first issue of the International Journal of the Analytic Hierarchy Process (IJAHF). The mission of the IJAHF is to advance the use and development of the Analytic Hierarchy/Network Process (AHP/ANP) for decision making and to educate people in using it. The first issue of a journal always raises the question of why we need it in the first place. So I will use this opportunity to address this issue.

INFORMS, in its recent October 2008 impact award to Thomas L. Saaty, the creator of the AHP, stated that "The AHP has revolutionized how we resolve complex decision problems." Although AHP/ANP is currently applied in diverse areas, and articles and papers on this subject are available in journals from multiple disciplines; AHP/ANP researchers, practitioners, and students lack a publication we can call our own. We already have our biennial conference, the International Symposium on the Analytic Hierarchy Process (ISAHP), that constitutes an academic home for practitioners of the AHP/ANP discipline; however, we need our own publication to address issues that pertain to the AHP/ANP, and to keep our community of practitioners connected in the periods between AHP/ANP symposia. I believe this journal can fill that vacuum and would constitute an effective complement to the ISAHP meetings. For this reason, the editors have chosen, for this issue, three papers from the last ISAHP in Chile that constitute good examples of AHP/ANP applications. There is also an article by Tom Saaty on the relationship between AHP/ANP and natural law and the role of judgment in science. I hope that you will enjoy our first issue!

Enrique Mu  
Editor-in-Chief

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