Editorial

From time to time it is necessary to evaluate various statistical information pertinent to recent publications in this journal. For example, the total number of authors who contributed to some 2600 pages of Volume 19 (2001) peaked at a staggering 425 – up from 359 for Volume 18 and just 278 for Volume 17 in 1999. Correspondingly, we published 130 full papers and 19 technical notes in 2001 compared with 116 papers and a massive 47 technical notes in 1999. Since 1998 it has been the journal policy to discourage technical notes, which is reflected in these statistics. Furthermore, our authors spanned the whole globe with over 40 countries represented in both 2000 and 2001. This demonstrates the strategic importance of drying R&D all over the globe. Unlike certain fields of science and engineering, drying R&D is no longer dominated by only a small part of the world.

It is not surprising that the top contributing authorship of the journal varies from your to year, primarily due to the fact that we often publish theme issues that focus on R&D in specific countries (e.g., a special issue on Drying R&D in Japan in 2001) or special conferences (e.g., IDS'98 in Greece) which led to some 9% and 16% of all papers published in volumes 18 (2000) and 19 (2001), to come from Japan and Greece, respectively. USA, Canada, Brazil, France, Poland and Australia provided over 40% of the contributions published over the past four years and the remainder of about 35 countries contributed the remainder 60%.

It is gratifying to note the truly global scope of drying R&D. This is also reflected in the ever increasing number of conferences – national, regional as well as international – as well as workshops being held and planned around the world that are devoted to thermal as well as non-thermal dewatering science, technology and engineering. With the need to dry over 50,000 substances in hundreds of different dryer types to widely varying specifications, clearly there is much to be accomplished at both the fundamental and applied levels. The rapid growth in this area is therefore is not surprising.

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