

Editor-in-Chief's Notes

It is a great privilege and a formidable challenge for me to assume the role of Editor-in-Chief of the *Polyolefins Journal (POJ)*, with the mission to publish high-quality original papers and review articles on polyolefins with all their diverse aspects. Launching a new journal on polyolefins in the Middle-East (ME) region is an ambitious undertaking, knowing that we are in company of an excellent number of outstanding international journals.

There are, however, convincing arguments in favor of the task at hand letting us to believe that the launching of such a journal could be in fact successful and that there would be a growing demand for it. The first and foremost argument in this regard is the fact that olefin-based polymers, with 180 mm ton/annum production in 2013, accounting for about 2/3 of total world polymer production, have become the dominant products of the petrochemical industry as a whole and the key element in polymer industry in particular. Therefore, the publication of a journal that would cover exclusively all aspects of polyolefins, from fundamental research and development to industrial production processes and polymer processing up to polymer market, service life, and recycling etc., is vastly justifiable.

Second, the ME region, on account of its vast oil and gas reserves has, in the last decade or so, been developing many new petrochemical complexes with their expansion into colossal polyolefin production capacities. Additionally, these industrial complexes are no more acting as mere receivers of technology, as licensors or joint venture partners, but also, via immense investments in their home countries as well as investments in global research centers, acquired from their business partners, are gradually developed into technology providers. Companies such as SABIC, ADNOC, QAPCO and NPC are few to name that have undergone massive structural and technological transformations in the last decade. They have set up ambitious plans for further capacity increases and native technology developments in the coming decade, both in down-stream and up-stream projects. Their efforts are reflected in the construction and commissioning of the largest "ethane crackers" and various technologies dealing with on-purpose propylene production facilities as well as the world scale polyethylene/polypropylene production facilities involving the latest technologies. The fact is that the center of the gravity of polyolefin production/business is shifting more and more towards the greater ME region and the predictions are that by 2020 the ME region will dominate the polyolefin industry as a whole.

These two arguments by themselves should be convincing enough to justify the launching of a journal with the above mentioned objectives in the ME region. However, *POJ* should not be considered and is not aimed to be a mere ME regional journal but an international publication of interest to readers world-wide. A cursory look at the current, dynamic list of the *POJ* international editorial board members, composed of a number of highly experienced and renowned scientists, is well reflecting this intention. Board members' industrial and academic affiliations and the vast geographic spread of their countries of origin should convince even the most ardent skeptics about our commitment to keep and maintain *POJ* as an internationally recognized "venue" for publications.

The editorial board members play a very active role in a day-to-day *POJ* co-management in sending, reviewing and approving the publications as well as in the general organization of the journal. They are involved in all important decision making processes of the journal and are an integrated part of its managerial system. As the editorial board of *POJ*, we strive to deliver to our readers, with different professional orientations and at different levels and stages of their career, a unique package of original research papers, review articles etc. on the polyolefin enterprise that is useful, helpful, and contain variety of interesting information.

Numerous manuscripts have been received for the publication in the first issue of the journal and have been peer-reviewed. The process of submission, reviewing, resubmission, and final approval for some manuscripts turned out to be more time consuming than initially expected. To adhere to the journal's high standard while avoiding a prolonged delay of its publication, at the foreseen date of January 2014, necessitated the decision to publish the first issue of the journal with a limited number of articles and review articles. In this issue the sequential arrangement of the published articles is based on the date of their submission.

This current edition of the *Polyolefins Journal* marks the first of the two editions designed for the publication in the year 2014 (bi-annual). A two-fold increase is planned for the publication frequency for 2015 and subsequent years (quarterly). Other goals are, in constant consultation with the international editorial board, to revise and possibly expand the scope of what the *Polyolefins Journal* can cover and reducing the time to publish manuscripts to provide additional flexibility by allowing even faster publication for time-sensitive manuscripts. Each future issue of *POJ* will contain an in-depth article that reviews the activities and/or ground-breaking developments of one of the polyolefin majors. Additionally, it shall also include an article or a review written by one of the leading scientists in the field on her/his pioneering works. As the editorial board members of *POJ*, we hope that for many years to come, this journal will be a vehicle for the delivery of timely and thoughtful information and opinion on many subjects that concern the polyolefin community.

I would like to cordially express my sincere appreciations to all *POJ* members including authors, editors, and reviewers for their valuable contribution and cooperation in the publication of the first issue of the *Polyolefins Journal*. To enhance the scientific quality of the journal and to make it more attractive and informative for our readers we shall continue to seek collaboration with the largest number of authors and the broadest spectrum of institutions to assist us in our endeavor of fulfilling this mission. Our commitment to the highest quality both in form and content is unsurpassed.

Let me finish these notes by acknowledging that my job has been made infinitely easier due to the excellent editorial office under the leadership of Dr. Shokoufeh Hakim and the extraordinary staff work of Ms. Houri Mivehchi, Dr. Naeimeh Bahri-Laleh, Ms. Leila Moballegh, Ms. Mitra Tabatabaei, Mr. Hadi M. H. Moghaddam and Ms. Zeinab Khonakdar.

Now, let's keep the ball rolling!

Prof. Dr. Abbas Razavi
Editor-in-Chief