

From the Editor-in-Chief

AJBE Vol. 17 brings together seven contributions that highlight both classroom-based practice and curriculum-level perspectives, covering topics such as conceptual change in elementary science, effective classroom management, experiential training programs, diatom-based river education, student research on biodiversity loss, informal online learning for young children, and the treatment of biodiversity issues in upper secondary school textbooks.

I sincerely thank the members of the editorial board as well as Dr. Takayuki Sato, Dr. Ashraful Kabir, Dr. Miyuki Kato, Dr. Shunji Takeshita, and Dr. Takashi Higa for their outstanding contributions to the peer review process over the last two years. Through their careful and constructive reviews, the academic standard of the journal has been greatly enhanced.

In order to make AJBE better known to a wider audience and to encourage the submission of high-quality manuscripts, we renewed the AJBE website this year. The new design places the Online First list on the top page and provides a modern navigation system that enables easy access to all previously published articles. In addition, information for authors has been reorganized and clearly presented, and the Instructions for Authors and the Research Ethics Guidelines are now located in readily accessible sections of the site.

We also created a new AJBE logo. The design combines motifs of growing plant leaves and dynamic animals, forming a shape reminiscent of a helical gene structure. A circular element representing the human head is placed at the top to symbolize education, while the overall form expresses the letter “A” for Asia, reflecting the regional identity of our association.

For articles published since July of this year, final manuscripts have been submitted to J-STAGE in XML format, enabling the full text to be displayed in HTML. This change has greatly increased the likelihood that articles will be discovered through internet searches, providing substantial benefits to authors. Moreover, the availability of full-text HTML allows readers to use browser-based translation functions to read English articles in other languages, thereby reducing the time required to understand the content.

Furthermore, the Editorial Board has decided to display Creative Commons licenses starting with AJBE Vol. 18. By clearly stating the copyright policy in advance, AJBE will move from a green open-access journal to a gold open-access journal.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all those who have contributed to these efforts to enhance the status of AJBE, and I look forward to receiving many high-quality submissions in the future. With the cooperation of many colleagues, we hope to continue enriching AJBE as a scholarly journal, and I invite all of you to join us in this endeavor.

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