

# Journal of Humanitarian Engineering

Volume 2, Issue 1 – July 2013

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# Journal of Humanitarian Engineering (JHE)

The *Journal of Humanitarian Engineering* (JHE) is an open access publication that publishes outcomes of research and field experiences at the intersection of technology and community development. The field of “humanitarian engineering” describes the application of engineering and technology for the benefit of disadvantaged communities. This field spans thematic areas from water to energy to infrastructure; and applications from disability access to poverty alleviation. The JHE aims to highlight the importance of humanitarian engineering projects and to inspire engineering solutions to solve the world’s most pertinent challenges.

For more information, visit: [www.ewb.org.au/journal](http://www.ewb.org.au/journal).

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## PRODUCTION

Engineers Media

## SUBSCRIPTION

The *Journal of Humanitarian Engineering* team encourages collaboration and the dissemination of ideas. JHE is an open access publication and electronic copies are freely available from the website: [www.ewb.org.au/journal](http://www.ewb.org.au/journal)

## FEEDBACK AND CONTACT

The editorial team welcome your feedback, comments and suggestions for the future direction of the journal. We also welcome people who are interested in becoming involved in supporting this initiative.

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## PUBLICATION DATES AND DEADLINES

The JHE is published biannually. Deadlines for the first and second issues close on the 15th of January and 15th of September respectively but we welcome submissions throughout the year.

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## The importance for quality publication outlets



Since publishing the first edition of the *Journal of Humanitarian Engineering*, I've been delighted with the positive feedback we have received from academics, practitioners and researchers alike. The Journal was created as we felt there was a genuine gap in the literature to publish technical articles about engineering and community development.

It turns out that this was an accurate assessment, and over the past twelve months I've been pleased to share the Journal with interested readers in Australia and overseas. The publication received an excellent write up on the Engineering for Change website as a new destination for publishing rigorous outcomes in engineering and technology for development – some great recognition and the chance to reach a much bigger audience.

In late 2012, I was an invited speaker at the IEEE Global Humanitarian Technology Conference in Seattle, and sat on a panel on the topic of "Publishing Outlets for Social Entrepreneurship". Joined by the editors of the International Journal for Service Learning and Engineering, and the IEEE Technology and Society Magazine, we

explored in depth the importance of academics having the option to share their research and be recognised by their academic colleagues.

As an outcome I think this is key, and should not be underestimated. If engineering academics can complete humanitarian engineering research and be appropriately acknowledged during performance and academic reviews, then we are only going to see more research in the field. At the forum this was described as a 'pat on the back' rather than a 'pat on the head', where the acknowledgement is that the work is a genuine academic exercise, rather than just a (worthwhile) side project. As academics and researchers build their portfolio of quality research around humanitarian engineering, the more projects we'll see funded and supported. This is a real-world positive feedback loop.

Journals have long been a mechanism to build academic and collaborative communities of practice and I hope that the Journal of Humanitarian Engineering will become an important part of the international community of innovators applying their skills to tackle important global challenges. We have another diverse edition of the Journal and I'm pleased to invite you to explore the topics within.

With the publication of the second issue, the Journal feels a lot more real. A one-off publication would have been worthwhile experiment, but seeing the Journal build on its strengths in the second year, I can see that we have established a process that will be sustainable in the long term. We've introduced an effective peer-review process and have implemented the Open Journal System to better track and share the research. We are also exploring innovations in Open Access, something I look forward to sharing with you over the coming year. The Journal Editorial Team of Emilia Wisniewski and Nick Mason-Smith have done a stellar job in guiding the process and bringing this edition to fruition, and this wouldn't have come together without their hard work and support.

One of my favourite moments around this over the past twelve months was at the World Engineering Education Forum in Buenos Aires when an academic excitedly shared the news that there was a new publication in humanitarian engineering and that I should definitely look into it. While I've been involved in the process from the start, I do share her enthusiasm and hope you do too.

**Julian O'Shea**

Editor, *Journal of Humanitarian Engineering*

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