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Editorial on MEST Journal 2024Belgrade, July 15th, 2024

In the period between the January and July editions, the MEST Journal underwent a change in its Deputy Chief Editor position. It is with great pleasure to announce that Prof. PhD Daniela Todorova, the Rector of "Todor Kableshkov" University of Transport in Sofia (Bulgaria), has assumed this role. We extend our best wishes to her in her new position, and we are confident in her continued success both as an editor and a rector.

In addition to this, MEST Journal has also changed its graphic design. We hope it is now even more attractive and functional.

The world is currently experiencing a period of heightened tension and division, not only because of the Ukraine-Russia and Israeli-Hamas conflicts but also because of dramatic changes in the World Economy, disobeying the old- and the creation of new rules and relationships at the global level.

Divisions and conflicts appeared not only among nations but also within them, leading to disruptions in both international relations and interpersonal dynamics. Greed and fear took over. The increase in tensions is also influenced by uncertainty about whether the main actors know what they are striving for and whether they have a vision of how the events will unfold. The results of the parliamentary elections in several countries also speak of this.

The present era is marked by constraints on the flow of information, and the movement of people and goods, signaling a significant departure from previous decades' trends. This time of uncertainty, mass conflicts, and fear is tempered by an underlying hope that reason will ultimately prevail.

This global context has influenced the submissions to the MEST Journal, particularly on the theme of the Israeli-Hamas conflict. As a result, we have selected several articles that address these pressing issues for immediate publication in a Supplemental Edition alongside this July release.

In the MEST Journal July edition, we feature 16 articles from authors spanning Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Croatia, Moldova, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The countries have been arranged alphabetically. Some authors have made multiple contributions, reflecting their productivity and engagement with these critical topics. The articles necessitating urgent publication have been included in the Supplemental Edition, while others are still in the form of a preview, early birds. We will publish them in upcoming issues. Aligning with our commitment to extend accessibility and cost efficiency we offer MEST Journal Supplemental Edition online-only.

MEST Journal remains committed to fostering international collaboration and supporting authors in sharing their research findings. We encourage authors to publish their work with us, offering guidance, free publication, and adherence to Creative Commons 4.0 principles.

Thank you for joining us on this academic journey.

Warm regards,

Prof. Dr. Zoran Čekerevac