WHAT CONSTITUTES A NOVEL AHP/ANP CONTRIBUTION?

We often receive inquiries about whether a particular study is novel or original enough to be published in our journal. Interestingly enough, whenever a potential author asks this question, the study is likely original enough for publication. Many other potential authors simply submit their studies with the assumption of originality, and they are surprised when they are told their study is not original enough to be published. For this reason, the question of what constitutes a novel study deserves some consideration.

AHP/ANP methodologies were created to address decisions in many different domains. For this reason, and in principle, we would expect a contribution on the methodology (theoretical contribution) or its use (applied contribution). Discussions of AHP/ANP theoretical aspects are routinely present in our journal, and the paper "Achieving the desired level of dependency in ANP decision models" by Cooper and Liu, published in this issue, constitutes a good example of this. However, IJAHP also gives opportunities to applied contributions, provided they are original.

Originality means that either the authors address decisions that have not been dealt with before, as done by Bahurmoz and Samrgandi's study in their proposal to solve the current oil economic crisis in Saudi Arabia, or they address well-known decisions with a certain novel twist, as done by Agredo et al. in their development of a model for the selection of a customer relationship management system (a well-known decision) but with a model simplified in such a way that it can be used by small businesses taking into account different stakeholder perspectives. These two characteristics, model simplicity and multiple perspectives constitute the different twist and contribution for the CRM selection problem.

Finally, as in any other journal, we need to make sure that the addressed topic is of interest to a large number of IJAHP readers as well as ensuring that the study has been developed following the best scientific practice standards in use in the AHP/ANP community. The papers published in this issue are good examples of novel contributions. We look forward to receiving your own original contributions!

Enjoy our first issue of the year,

Enrique Mu, PhD
Editor-in-chief