

## The Past and Present of the APJAS

As of December 2011, 47 years have passed since 1965, the time when the Korea Meteorological Society (KMS) published its first volume of the Journal of Korean Meteorological Society (JKMS). The first paper of the volume was "On the Seoul Tornado of September 13, 1964" about the tornado that passed through the suburban Seoul," written by Cook, Chaepyo (Central Meteorological Office, the predecessor of Korea Meteorological Administration), Kim, Sung-Sam (Seoul National University), and Lee, Chongkyung (ROK Air Force) (Fig. 1). This account, which Prof. Kim frequently recited at lecture during my undergraduate years, ignited my enthusiasm for meteorology; even decades later, I still use this paper to teach about the so-called "Seoul tornado" or "Abkujeong-dong Tornado". The three authoritative organizations of Korea, the Korea Meteorological Administration, the Seoul National University, and the Air Force are tightly knitted, collaborating to shepherd Korea's meteorology since then. Except for the fact that the paper is now published in non Korean languages, the paper retains its traditional scientific content.

Here I would like to point out that the copyright of the current Asia-Pacific Journal of Atmospheric Sciences (APJAS) has been owned by the Korea Meteorological Society for 47 years (see Figure 2). Full-fledged efforts for the internationalization of the journal date back to mid-1990; the mixed English version of the journal, KJAS (Korean Journal of Atmospheric Sciences) was first published in 1998. Scientific Citation Index (SCI) papers emerged from the need of further international awareness, thus, ending the publication of KJAS in 2003, for the hope of a new English Journal that would be the SCI. Accordingly, in 2006 the journal's transition to English has played a major role in its internationalization, and the birth of the online referring system. Korean (Hangu) articles became part of the acclaimed journal "Atmosphere". In 2007, the English journal decided to take on a new name, the Asia-Pacific Journal of Atmospheric Sciences (APJAS), and in 2008, APJAS was published as the SCI-E. KMS struck a contract with Springer Publications, and in 2009, APJAS became

actively published in other countries. In July 2011, the Aries Systems developed and operated an online manuscript submission and review system for APJAS (<http://apas.edmgr.com>). The journal impact factors were 0.548 for 2009 and 0.855 for 2010, demonstrating the progressive growth in the quality of the journal.

It is about a year since I was invited to be the Chief Editor of the APJAS. The past year has been eventful, indeed. Earlier this year, I strived to make the article submission and review system of Korea universally appealing and graceful, but the error-ridden, conventional screening systems, and lack of ideas frustrated my endeavor. No progress had been made, leading APJAS to miss its promised due date with Springer because of APJAS' previous inability to upgrade to a new system. However, thankfully, I was able to exploit the experiences and insight I gained as the editor of the Meteorology and Atmospheric Physics (MAP), and untangle the dilemma.

After I requested the assistance of 9 Editors and 27 Associate editors, I was surprised that only a few refused to join in the editorial board. Also, the assistant of the Springer's Journal Publication Office (JPO), who excels in English, was assigned. Although both the APJAS (<http://apas.edmgr.com>) and the American Meteorological Society (AMS) journals use the same online editorial managing (EM) system that is run by Aries System, the EM system of APJAS has its idiosyncratic features that were due to its unique history.

When a manuscript is submitted online, it is forwarded to the JPO assistant, who then checks the format of the manuscript. When the JPO assistant approves, the manuscript is forwarded to the Chief Editor, and then the Executive Editor and Publication Editor determine whether the manuscript can be sent to a handling editor for final assessment. As of December 31, 2011, 30% of the manuscripts in this process received the verdict of "immediate rejection" and were returned to the author(s). After this phase, depending on the expertise, nationality, and the number of assigned manuscripts, the passed manuscript is sent to one of the (Chief) Editors. Each Editor has the power of "immediate rejection," reserving

the authority to have full control over the selection of reviewers and the final disposition of the paper. The corresponding author of the manuscript is notified of the outcome in two months at most, since reviewers have 30 days to look over the paper and suggest the decision to the editor. The author is given 30 days for revising the manuscript, the time which can be extended to 2 weeks at most. For minor revisions, the revision should be done within 15 days, and optional review of the revised manuscript takes 15 days.

December 31, 2011, Song-You Hong  
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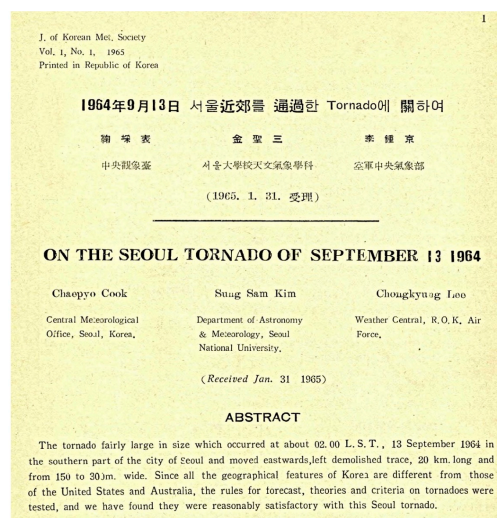


Figure 1. The first page of the JKMS published in 1965

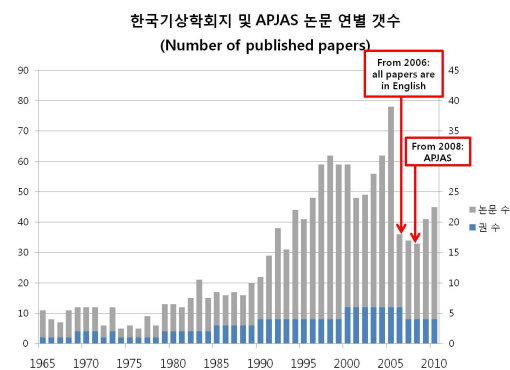


Figure 2. The number of papers of the JKMS and APJAS published by the KMS. Blue and grey bars designate the number of volume (right column) and papers (left column), respectively.



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