

## Editorial: AAS Will Be Included in the SCI Database in 2009

doi: 10.1007/s00376-008-0705-1

We are very pleased to announce that our journal of *Advances in Atmospheric Sciences* (AAS) has been accepted for inclusion in the “Science Citation Index” (SCI) database beginning with its 2009 volume, as recently informed by Mr. Rodney Chonka, Editor of *Physical, Chemical & Earth Sciences* of Thomson Reuters. We believe that this upgrade is a result of our many years editorial and community effort in improving the publication quality of AAS. It was preceded by important changes in editorial procedures in 2002, such as more strict quality control for English readability, more rigorous peer reviews by outstanding scientists, electronic and speedy publications, and recent collaboration with Springer. According to ISI *Journal Citation Reports*, AAS’ citation impact has increased from 0.288 in 2002 to 0.902 in 2007. AAS’ citation record includes 764 papers cited a total of 1,658 times between 1 January 1998 and 29 February 2008, based on *Essential Science Indicators SM*. We may consider Thomson Reuters’ decision as being an international recognition of the journal. It also provides an encouragement and rewarding experience to the atmospheric science community in China as well as to many foreign and overseas scientists who contributed in various ways to the growth of the journal.

We regard the coverage in the SCI database as being a new opportunity to further improve the editorial quality of our publications and raise the statue of our journal. We hope to attract more valuable papers from our previous and new authors around the world. We will enhance the functions of AAS’ editorial board and make every effort to maintain the high scientific and editorial standards in the future. To expedite further the publications of new research results and ensure a wider circulation of AAS, we have decided to start

soon the early online release of all in-press papers on our website.

In May 2008, ScienceWatch named AAS as a Rising Star (<http://sciencewatch.com/dr/rs/08may-rs/>) among Geosciences journals for its distinguished performance in citation records, and then interviewed three of us by email on the journal’s history and citation achievements (ScienceWatch, 2008). With the permission of ScienceWatch, we now reprint the interview content in this issue for your information. In addition, on 13 August 2008, Springer, one of AAS’ co-publishers, issued a press release on the recent achievements of the journal (see <http://www.springer-sbm.de/> for details), which was later reprinted by several agencies on their websites (e.g., [www.EurekAlert.org](http://www.EurekAlert.org), [www.environmental-expert.com](http://www.environmental-expert.com), and [www.bio-medicine.org](http://www.bio-medicine.org)).

We must acknowledge that the above-mentioned achievements of AAS would not be possible without many valuable publications from our previous authors and important contributions from many of our dedicated reviewers and editors in China and abroad. We wish to thank you all for your support and hope to receive more submissions of your high-quality manuscripts in the future.

**WU Guoxiong, WANG Huijun, and Da-Lin ZHANG**  
Co-Chief Editors

September 2008

### References

ScienceWatch.com, 2008: *Advances in Atmospheric Sciences*: A featured journal from *Essential Science Indicators*. [Available online from <http://www.sciencewatch.cominter/jou/2008/08julAdvAtmospSci/>]

Reprinted from ScienceWatch.com, released in July 2008

### ***Advances in Atmospheric Sciences:* A Featured Journal from Essential Science Indicators**

*In May 2008, ScienceWatch.com named Advances in Atmospheric Sciences a Rising Star among Geosciences journals. According to Essential Science IndicatorsSM from Thomson Reuters, the journal’s cur-*

*rent citation record includes 764 papers cited a total of 1,658 times between January 1, 1998 and February 29 2008.*

*Advances in Atmospheric Sciences was founded in*

1984 and is sponsored by The Chinese Committee for International Association of Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences (IAMAS), and the Institute of Atmospheric Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences. It is co-published by Springer and Science Press.

In the interview below, Co-Chief Editors Guoxiong Wu, Huijun Wang, and Da-Lin Zhang, talk about the journal's history and citation achievements.

**SW: Did you expect *Advances in Atmospheric Sciences* to become highly cited, or is this surprising to you?**

Yes, we expected to see more citations of *Advances in Atmospheric Sciences* (AAS), but not to the extent that it happened. It is indeed a little surprising to us.

**SW: How would you account for the high citation rate of AAS?**

We believe that although it is still too early to tell, the high citation rate may be attributed to the following factors: the international orientation of the journal (including the close collaboration with Springer), the periodically recycled international editorial board, and the significant increase of international submissions, the Web-powered review editorial system, and more strict quality control for both the printed and electronic publications. These improvements appear to be very effective.

Moreover, in August 2007, one of our co-chief editors, Prof. Da-Lin Zhang, on behalf of the editorial board, wrote an official email to apply for the promotion of AAS to be one of the core journals of the Thomson Reuters SCI collection on the basis of the demonstrated overall improvements.

For your information, we have also noted a sudden increase in downloading AAS papers from Springerlink (see Table 1). AAS's publications can now be obtained timely and conveniently through Springerlink. Moreover, with the strategic collaboration between Springer and Google, the accessibility of the Springerlink has been optimized by the powerful search engine, which could partly explain the sudden increase in downloads.

**SW: Would you give us a brief history of the journal?**

AAS, launched in 1984, is an international journal on the dynamics, physics, and chemistry of the atmosphere and ocean. It covers the latest achievements and developments in the atmospheric sciences, includ-

ing marine meteorology and meteorology-associated geophysics, as well as the theoretical and practical aspects of these disciplines.

Papers on weather systems, numerical weather prediction, climate dynamics and variability, satellite meteorology, remote sensing, air chemistry and the boundary layer, clouds, and weather modification can be found in the journal. Papers describing the application of new mathematics or new instruments are also collected here.

In 1999, as the only one among peer-reviewed journals on atmospheric sciences in mainland China, AAS began to be abstracted by Thomson Reuters (then ISI).

In 2000, the journal established a strict workflow and a peer-review system for all submitted manuscripts. At least one reviewer from overseas and one from China are selected for each paper. Also in this year, with the new enrollment of many internationally renowned editors, the policy of a periodically recycled international editorial board started to be more effective.

Since 2002, native English-speaking editors have been hired to improve the clarity, consistency, and accuracy of the manuscripts accepted for publication in AAS.

In 2005, AAS signed the co-publishing contract with Springer.

**SW: What historical factors have contributed to the success of AAS?**

Before 2008, AAS was the only journal in the field that was abstracted by Thomson Reuters in mainland China. The international recognition of the journal has promoted its development as demonstrated by *Journal Citation Reports*<sup>®</sup> yearly reports. Please see Table 2 for details.

The active participation of overseas reviewers has helped to ensure the scientific quality of journal publications. The proofreading service has improved the readability of AAS publications. Furthermore, with the combined effort and wisdom of an international editorial board, the journal has been improved considerably in both its printing quality and scientific contents. Because of the outstanding performance, AAS has been sponsored three times with the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) Fund for Key Academic Journals.

**Table 1** Downloads of AAS papers on Springerlink (provided by MetaPress).

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year to date total
2006	0	20	66	105	90	115	93	153	127	138	173	255	1335
2007	234	7740*	171	519	408	653	482	32202*	534	538	860	1022	45363
2008	3402*	312	598										4312

Note: \*denotes the sudden increase.

**Table 2** Statistics from *Journal Citation Reports*.

Year	Total Cites	Impact Factor	Immediacy Index	Self-citation frequency
2001	146	0.327	—	—
2002	172	0.288	0.072	56 (32.6%)
2003	231	0.449	0.069	88 (38.1%)
2004	404	0.603	0.116	189 (46.8%)
2005	402	0.668	0.034	102 (25.4%)
2006	483	0.579	0.126	144 (29.8%)

With Springer's flexible distribution channels and marketing strategies, accessibility of *AAS* has been greatly improved since 2006, which is shown in *AAS*'s subscription increase and downloading rates.

**SW: Have there been specific developments in the fields served by *AAS* that may have contributed?**

There have been several specific developments in recent years that have contributed to the improvement of the journal. First, *AAS* is a journal published by the Chinese National Committee for IAMAS (International Association of Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences) and IAP (Institute of Atmospheric Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences). Prof. Guoxiong Wu, President of this National Committee, and now President of IAMAS, is the Chief Editor; Dr. Huijun Wang, the Director of IAP, and Prof. Da-Lin Zhang of Maryland University are the two Co-Chief Editors.

Since 2003, many prestigious IAMAS experts, such as the former President, Prof. Huw Davies, the former President of ICMA, Dr. Kevin Hamilton, the former President of ICDM, Dr. Peter Baines, and others have contributed to the development of *AAS* by submitting their outstanding research results. All these appear to help increase the citation of *AAS*.

Second, *AAS* has tried to follow the frontier development of the field, with organized special issues on Asian monsoons and climate change, etc. These have also attracted many interested readers. In addition, *AAS* has published more papers related to the Chinese National Committee for World Climate Research Pro-

gram (WCRP) and regular International Workshops among China, Japan, and Korea. These papers are of generally high quality.

Research in mainland China is specialized in the dynamics of East Asian monsoons, climatic system models, climate prediction, and global climate change. As the key journal in this field in mainland China, *AAS* has reported a lot of valuable works by Chinese researchers. In turn, they have been granted with honors for their outstanding contribution, to name but a few here.

Prof. Qingcun Zeng *et al.* were honored with the National Natural Science Award (2nd Class) in 2005 in acknowledgement of their research on "Climate System Model, Numerical Climate Simulation and Climate Predictability Study." Fourteen of his listed 44 publications in the Award were published in *AAS*.

For their profound research on "Land-Sea-Surface Interaction and Its Impact on Subtropical Anticyclone and the Climate in China," Prof. Guoxiong Wu *et al.* won the 2007 National Natural Science Award (2nd Class). Of the 10 most important publications, the one published in *AAS* ranked 2nd.

Prof. Ronghui Huang and his collaborator are applying for the 2008 National Natural Science Award of China. Five of the 10 listed key publications for the application were published in *AAS*.

**SW: What, in your view, is this journal's main significance or contribution in the field of Geosciences?**

Since the launching of *AAS* in 1984, the journal

has aimed to promote the distribution of the most up-to-date achievements by researchers in China and abroad. Since *AAS* became a member of SCIE, RA, CC/PCES in 1999, it has played an important role in communication between Chinese and foreign scientists. For example, *AAS* was ranked 14th by number of papers in the top 20 journals publishing on “Tropical Storms” according to the July 2006 Special Topic from *Essential Science Indicators* (see <http://www.esi-topics.com/tropical/journals/e1b.html>). *AAS* is also the only English language journal in Earth Sciences that has been funded by the National Science Foundation of China (NSFC). The increase in the citation rates also signified the readers’ recognition of the journal’s performance.

**SW: How do you see your field(s) evolving in the next few years?**

In recent years, a large amount of funding and resources have been pooled together in mainland China to support the researches of the dynamics of East Asian monsoon systems, earth system models, climate change and prediction, integrated research of East Asian environmental changes and regular human activities, atmospheric chemistry, atmospheric environmental change and prediction, mid-layer atmospheric physical-chemical process, and developing remote sensing techniques to monitor and model environmental and climate change etc. The new and broadened range of research will be one special focus for *AAS*.

In the foreseeable future, the following fields will develop very fast and provide challenges and opportunities for the development of *AAS*:

- After the publication of the IPCC AR4, climate change over the world and its regional projections

over Asia have become and will continue to be a hot topic;

- Severe weather and climate events that have occurred frequently in the recent years and caused great damages to the society. The diagnoses and predictions of these events will attract many research efforts;
- Efforts in improving climate and weather prediction models and in reducing prediction or projection uncertainties will be enhanced substantially. People would like to see a much better outcome from the IPCC AR5 in a few years;
- Field observations, including in situ and satellite, will further improve our understanding of the behavior of the climate system. The Asian Monsoon Years (AMY) campaign, taking place from 2007 to 2012, involves about 23 research projects in the Asian societies that will produce many new observation results and shed new light on the existing climate changes.

**SW: What role do you see for your journal?**

First, our journal provides a convenient and reliable platform for researchers in this field to present their work. Second, the editing service (including proofreading, typesetting etc.) has optimized the readability of the papers. You can now find in *AAS* many of the recent research results of most of the national key programs funded by NSFC, MOST, or CAS. *AAS* has become a window for scientists to view the domestic research progress in atmospheric science and to know the development abroad.

Finally, we would like to thank you again for providing this encouraging news. We are confident that *AAS* will continue to grow and improve with wide support from our meteorological community.

*Advances in Atmospheric Sciences*

Guoxiong Wu, Huijun Wang, and Da-Lin Zhang, Co-Chief Editors

Springer and Science Press, publishers

Chinese Committee for International Association of Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences (IAMAS), and the Institute of Atmospheric Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, sponsors

**Keywords:** Chinese journals, atmospheric sciences, marine meteorology, meteorology-associated geophysics, weather systems, climate dynamics, satellite meteorology, remote sensing, air chemistry, publisher collaborations, article downloads