Advances in Geo-Energy Research

Vol. 13, No. 2, p. 81-82, 2024

Editorial

AGER launches one-journal-one-forum mode to achieve a leading geo-energy exchange platform

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Keywords:
One-journal-one-forum mode
geo-energy
frontier forum
exchange platform

Cited as:
Cai, J. *AGER* launches one-journal-one-forum mode to achieve a leading geo-energy exchange platform. Advances in Geo-Energy Research, 2024, 13(2): 81-82.
https://doi.org/10.46690/ager.2024.08.01

Abstract:
From April 19-22, 2024, the editorial department of *Advances in Geo-Energy Research* (*AGER*), in collaboration with several organizations, successfully hosted the first "Geo-Energy Frontier Forum". The forum was themed around "opportunities and challenges in geo-energy exploration and development" and introduced several innovative organizational approaches such as conference report scheduling, expert invitations, meeting manual, operational modes, and content, achieving notable outcomes. The event expanded *AGER*'s service capabilities and marked the initiation of the "one-journal-one-forum" mode. Scheduled biennially, the forum aims to establish a high-level academic exchange platform for "geo-energy", characterized by its comprehensive, strategic, cutting-edge, and innovative focus, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and development across various professions and industries.

Science and technology journals play a crucial role in shaping research directions, standardizing research processes, and meeting the needs of scientific and technological innovation. The international journal *Advances in Geo-Energy Research* (*AGER*) was founded by Prof. Jianchao Cai in 2017. Its core term "Geo-Energy" refers to Earth's (geological) energy. The journal focuses on coal, oil, natural gas, geothermal energy, and gas hydrates, publishing cutting-edge research in geology, exploration, development, engineering, and safety. With a relatively focused publication scope and a broad research perspective, it has pioneered scholar-led publishing in the field of geo-energy.

Since its launch, *AGER* has focused on advancing geo-energy research and established itself as a leading geoscience journal. It has rapidly published over 300 high-quality academic papers, garnering widespread international attention from scholars. Academic journals serve not only as bridges and intermediaries for academic publication but also as vehicles and platforms for scholarly exchange. To further enhance communication among geo-energy researchers, foster interdisciplinary collaboration and innovation, and accelerate progress in this field, the *AGER* editorial department, in partnership with various organizations, launched the first "Geo-Energy Frontier Forum", pioneering the "one-journal-one-forum" (OJOF) mode. This initiative aims to create a more comprehensive, strategic, cutting-edge, and innovative high-level academic exchange platform for geo-energy research. It strives to build closer relationships with scholars, offering more professional guidance, solid support, and a broader platform for experts and peers.

After more than six months of planning and organization, the first "Geo-Energy Frontier Forum", with the theme of "opportunities and challenges in geo-energy exploration and development," was successfully held in Wuhan, China, from April 19 to 22, 2024. The inaugural forum provided scholars with a grand academic feast in geo-energy, introduced multiple innovative initiatives, and achieved several notable outcomes:

1) The conference report highlights multi-dimensional and diversified innovation measures. The forum invited experts and scholars from seven countries, featuring 35 plenary reports and 16 international special invited re-

Yandy Scientific Press

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Received May 1, 2024; revised May 8, 2024; accepted May 11, 2024; available online May 13, 2024.

ports. The event comprised 32 sessions, 54 parallel subsessions, and 476 presentations. Plenary and sub-venue reports were conducted simultaneously, complementing each other.

2) The conference experts implemented multi-level and multi-mode innovative measures. More than 700 experts and scholars participitated in person together with over 14,000 people attended online, including senior experts, young scholars, graduate students, and technical experts from oil and gas field enterprises. They engaged in discussions through a combination of offline and online communication modes.
3) The conference proposed the OJOF mode for the first time. The journal and forum were closely integrated to conduct a Paper Contest, which received over 30 high-level submissions. Following scientific and fair professional evaluations, 10% of the top articles were selected for publication in the *AGER* journal.
4) The conference manual incorporated multifunctional innovative measures. The concept of creating a conference manual that could also serve as a contact list was introduced, allowing participants to access the profiles of over 500 experts via a scannable code.
5) The conference content achieved multifunctional and multi-format innovation measures. The event invited more than 10 domestic and international journal institutions in related fields to organize a journal Editor-in-Chief salon. The academic conference also hosted a special session on journal development and organized a personal concert during breaks to help attendees relax.

The 35 plenary reports mainly focused on four key areas: Geo-energy development and reserves, petroleum geophysical exploration, oil and gas geology, and field development engineering. The experts hailed from renowned universities, research institutes, enterprise research centers, and frontline production enterprises both domestically and internationally. Their participation facilitated in-depth exchanges among experts across the integrated fields of industry, academia, research, and application, providing a platform for national scientific and technological innovation and green development.

Simultaneously with the plenary sessions, 54 parallel subsessions were held, each focusing on specialized topics including energy exploration, carbon sequestration and energy storage, petroleum and natural gas geology, oil and gas reservoir development and seepage, geothermal and other clean energy development, efficient extraction technology for complex oil and gas reservoirs, geo-energy development and artificial intelligence, cross-scale and multi-field coupling methods, energy geological disaster detection, and safety prevention and control.

On the fourth day, 16 international invited reports were presented by experts from countries such as the United States, Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, Norway, and Saudi Arabia. These reports covered various topics, including oil and gas multiphase flow, enhanced oil recovery, oil and gas geology, and exploration.

This conference received strong support from over 90 participating organizations. The number of attendees and reports exceeded expectations. The conference expanded the breadth and depth of communication, deepened the discussions and exchanges among the representatives, inspired innovative thinking among the attending experts, and created an environment of open and equal communication and academic atmosphere. The attending experts fully endorsed the successful convening of the first forum and unanimously agreed that the conference comprehensively outlined the opportunities and challenges facing current geo-energy exploration and development, and deeply explored the hotspots and challenges in scientific research and energy production. This is of great significance in advancing China's geo-energy exploration, development, and technological innovation.

The "Geo-Energy Frontier Forum" will run in tandem with *AGER*, forming the OJOF mode. Outstanding exchange results from the forum will be prioritized for review and publication in *AGER*, ensuring the innovation, scientific rigour, and timeliness of achievements in the field. At the same time, it will provide a high-level communication and service platform for workers in geo-energy exploration and development, strengthening interaction and exchange among researchers in geo-energy and related fields, and promoting interdisciplinary cooperation across various professions and industries.

The successful hosting of this forum has effectively enhanced the journal's academic organizational capacity, innovation leadership, and brand influence, facilitated in-depth exchanges and exploration of theories and innovative achievements in global energy science, promoted interdisciplinary integration and innovative cooperative research among geo-energy researchers, and improved the international status and influence of domestic teams in the field.