

# Annals of Emerging Technologies in Computing (AETiC)

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## Editorial

Dear Reader,

It is a pleasure to introduce this issue of the journal, which brings together a collection of papers that reflect the rapidly evolving landscape of intelligent systems, data science, optimisation, and digital infrastructure. Although diverse in application, the contributions share a common objective: harnessing advanced computational techniques to address complex challenges in modern society. The issue demonstrates both the breadth of contemporary research and its growing interdisciplinarity, spanning smart cities, healthcare logistics, economic forecasting, cybersecurity, and graph-based learning.

A notable feature of this issue is its international character. The papers primarily originate from institutions in China, with a contribution from the USA. For me, this was noteworthy as my own institution is increasingly engaging with institutions in China. With a population of more than 1.4 billion and over 3,000 higher education institutions, China is an educational powerhouse.

Education in China has been much in the press over the last few weeks. Much print has been devoted to explaining a major restructuring of its higher education system, reshaping university curricula to align more closely with national development priorities, technological innovation, and labour market needs. According to press reports, between 2021 and 2025, universities discontinued or suspended approximately 12,200 undergraduate degree programmes while introducing around 10,200 new ones, affecting more than 30% of all undergraduate offerings nationwide. The programmes most frequently reduced were in the humanities, arts, foreign languages, and some management disciplines, while new provision has focused on areas such as artificial intelligence, data science, robotics, embodied intelligence, and low-altitude technology and engineering.

It is good to see the journal's international reach expanding and to read the contributions from China and the USA. As we go forward, I will be interested to see whether universities in other countries behave similarly to those in China and shift toward a greater emphasis on technologies intended to improve the economy. What the wider implications for society of such changes will be remains to be seen.

With best wishes,

Professor Andrew Ware,  
On behalf of the Editorial Board,  
Annals of Emerging Technologies in Computing (AETiC).