Welcome to the ASR newsletter for the first quarter of 2016. I would like to thank the Editorial Board, referees and Associate Editors for their efforts in 2015. In 2015 we had approximately 150 papers submitted hence selecting high quality papers from this group was a hard task.

There have been some changes for 2016 with a move to six editions this year and a total of approximately 580 pages. This has come about by an interest in the journal from members of the Passive Low Energy Association (PLEA).

Plans for 2016 include a Special Edition by Dr David Wadley from the University of Queensland on the Architecture Planning Interface. Taylor and Francis are also investigating the possibility of moving the journal into the science discipline, it is currently in humanities. Book reviews will be featured in the Newsletter if authors wish to submit them, please do so to Sue MacLeod (sue.macleod@sydney.edu.au).

2017 is the 60th volume of ASR. We aim to have three Special Editions, one on thermal comfort from the Windsor Conference in 2016 - Making Comfort Relevant and one from the PLEA conference in 2016. The third is a virtual edition, which will feature meritorious past papers, which will be available on line.

Richard Hyde

From the editor ...
Morocco poised to become solar superpower

A huge Moroccan solar thermal plant will be one of the world’s biggest when it is complete. Morocco is set to make history when the first phase of one of the world’s largest concentrated solar power plants starts generating electricity, said the World Bank (WB) in an article on its website.

“When fully operational, it will produce enough energy for more than one million Moroccans, with possibly extra power to export to Europe,” it noted. The solar thermal plant at Ouarzazate will harness the Sun’s warmth to melt salt, which will hold its heat to power a steam turbine in the evening. The first phase will generate for three hours after dark; the last stage aims to supply power 20 hours a day.

It is part of Morocco’s pledge to get 42% of its electricity from renewables by 2020. The Saudi-built Ouarzazate solar thermal plant will be one of the world’s biggest when it is complete. The mirrors will cover the same area as the country’s capital, Rabat.

The WB also noted that the Noor project is Morocco’s first utility-scale solar energy complex and a critical step in the Moroccan Solar Energy Program, which aims to install 2 GW of solar power by 2020. Morocco’s large slice of the Sahara desert is proving a blessing for solar power. Solar thermal technology only works in hot sunny countries. The price is falling, and its growing capacity to store energy is arousing interest. The plant is expected to reduce carbon emissions by 760,000 tons per year, which could mean a reduction of 17.5m tons of carbon emissions over 25 years.

ASA (ANZAScA) is a not for profit organisation registered under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009, NSW, Australia

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If you would like to review books or suggest a book your colleagues may enjoy please contact sue.macleod@sydney.edu.au