

Abstract

Upgrading the University's journal to meet an international standard (Scopus)

Journal of Agriculture and Development overseen by Nong Lam University, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam has been nationally recognized as a support journal for publication research outcomes in fields of agriculture and forestry. The journal has a nationwide impact in terms of increasing research capacity, contributing to the quality of higher education and developing of Vietnamese agriculture and forestry. Although having its own strengths, the journal is quite limited in terms of international accessibility and citations so that the contribution of the journal to the scholarly community seems to be narrowed. As a result, the international recognition and the opportunity for collaboration with other researchers and institutions of the university would be restricted.

The process of improving the journal in order to meet the international standards requires both financial and human resources. To assure a successful completion of the project, an experienced professionals from Academics without Borders USA (AWB USA) was requested to support this effort. Dr. Thomas Rost was engaged as the AWB USA volunteer who began the project by conferring with colleagues at other institutions (UC Irvine and King Monkut's University of Technology in Thailand) that had worked on similar objectives. In the winter of 2019, Dr. Rost conducted the first of two site visits to Nong Lam University, working with a faculty team there to establish protocols such as publisher operating, journal website design, peer-review procedures, writing for publishing training, submitting high-quality papers for the journal, joining advisory and editor boards etc. Participants in this project anticipate completion of the project will not only result in a successful international journal, but build a strong partnership between Nong Lam University and AWB USA.