



Knowledge Grows Only by Being Shared

S. W. Ricky LEE*

This is the end of 2012! There had been many predictions about 2012, including the most devastating one. No matter which version of predictions you believe in, there is one thing for sure: life goes on and we are heading for a new beginning in 2013!

I took the office of IEEE Components, Packaging & Manufacturing Technology (CPMT) Society in January 2012. It is already half way through my two year term. How time flies! In the past one year, I spent a lot of time traveling and meeting with people. In the meanwhile, I also put a lot of thinking on our technical community. In my opinion, there have been four elements to drive our professional colleagues forward. They are **Connection**, **Information**, **Publication**, and **Recognition**. I first joined the electronics packaging and manufacturing community for establishing connection with professional peers around the world. Afterwards I found many conferences are indeed express channels to obtain first-hand technical information. In addition, many transactions and journals are excellent platforms for the publication of our research outcome. Furthermore, the reputation built up from conference presentations and journal publications rewarded people with professional recognitions. All these four elements have been closely tied to my journey with the electronics packaging and manufacturing community for more than a decade. Over the years, within the CPMT and JIEP communities, I made friends with many outstanding professionals, learned a lot of knowledge from them, published quite some interesting papers, and received a number of honors and awards. I trust that many colleagues, including the readers of *JIEP Journal*, feel the same way.

In one of the President's Columns in the *CPMT Newsletter* earlier this year, I quoted Gautama Buddha in *Sutta Nipata*: "Thousands of candles can be lit from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared." Afterwards, I expanded this concept to a more specific statement for conferences and publications: "Knowledge grows only by being shared!" I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Editorial Board of the *JIEP Journal* for inviting me to write this Foreword to share my ideas. The *JIEP Journal* is a great platform for people to publicize their research activities. I would encourage our professional colleagues to share their fruitful R&D experience with other professional colleagues and promote the values of our technical community as much, as far as possible. In another column that I wrote for the *CPMT Newsletter*, I also described my vision about our professional society, which is "Connecting Peers, Mentoring Talents!" I proposed to make this a tagline for the IEEE CPMT Society because it is in line with the acronym of CPMT. Nevertheless, I feel this is suitable for any learner's societies. Therefore, I would like to contribute my two pennies here to the members of JIEP. I believe there are a lot of synergies between CPMT and JIEP. We also share a lot of common values. In the coming new year, I expect our two parties will further strengthen our relationship. I look forward to seeing many more "candles" in our future conferences and publications!