There are many journals in biomedical society. Some journals are published locally and the quality control of these journals is very important. To select the best articles to include in the journal is the clue for improving the journal’s quality. As noted in the recent publication by Garg et al., “It can be concluded that manuscript rejection can be avoided by the authors, if the topic is well chosen and communication is maintained with the journal editorial”. Indeed, to select a qualified journal into the library and database is the basic concept for any practitioner. Any articles that pass the first step of editorial screening and second step of peer reviewing will finally be published in the journal. It is the role of any new journal to upgrade and improve their publication to reach international standards. Routinely, the journal has to have standard protocols for manuscript management including peer reviewing process. However, sometimes, the journals have their own peer reviewing team but there might be no approval on its quality. How to assure the quality of the reviewing system of the journal is another important issue to be discussed.

Here, the authors would like to exchange their experience to improve the quality of their journal published by Surindra Rajabhat University, Thailand, namely, Asia Pacific Journal of Medical, Humanities and Social Medicine. The authors’ journals have just been published since 2014 and there are editorial board members from several countries in Asia-Pacific region (Thailand, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, etc.). Similar to any other journal, editorial screening and peer reviewing processes are routinely done. However, the authors also set an additional way to reassure the quality of the journal — the third-party external peer review on already published articles. A conference, namely, “Nigata – Surindra Rajabhat University Open Journal Conference” was held during August 2015 in Nigata University, Japan. The journal invited three external academic experts and professors (from Australia and Japan), who are experts in the field of medicine, humanism and journalism, and who are not the editorial board or reviewer of the journal, to review and discuss on the quality of published content in the journal. To perform a quality assessment, each third-party peer reviewer is allowed to freely express their idea on the quality of the journal. Each third-party peer reviewer is also asked to rate the quality of each published article in the journal as good, neutral or bad. According to the process, the third-party peers noted that the journal was a good journal in medical, humanities and social medicine specialty. All articles were rated “good” by all reviewers. The important observations include: (a) the journal should specify the group of readers and authors and (b) the journal should seek more articles from Pacific region to support the scope and title of the journal. In fact, the use of third-party peer review is a new concept in medicine and it is confirmed for usefulness in several activities (such as in diagnostic radiology). The authors hope that the using of third-party peer review to judge the quality of the journal might be the way to improve the quality of any new journal. With this information, additional third-party review can help support the idea of the editor. This can be the method for quality assessment of “Editor’s Eye”. With data from third party, the improvement of the journal can be expected.

References