EDITORIAL

Two Years of the Journal of Geo-Energy and Environment: Progress and Future Directions

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Abstract

Founded in 2025, the *Journal of Geo-Energy and Environment* (JGEE) provides a forum for research on geo-energy and the environmental issues associated with its development. In its first two publication years, 2025 and 2026, the journal published six issues containing 30 articles. It is now indexed by Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) and has become a Partner Journal of the International Mine Safety and Emergency Rescue Association. Two Honorary Editors-in-Chief have been appointed, and the editorial board has been restructured. This editorial reviews the journal's progress over this period and summarizes the main findings reported in its published articles. It then outlines future research directions in geothermal energy, hydrogen energy, subsurface energy storage, and geological carbon storage. Academic quality, open scholarly exchange, and international collaboration remain the priorities that will guide the journal's development and its contribution to geo-energy and environmental research.

Keywords: geo-energy, environmental protection, scholarly journals, Chemical Abstracts Service, international collaboration, sustainable development.

1 Introduction

Energy security, the transition to a low-carbon economy, and environmental protection together pose a lasting scientific problem: how can knowledge of Earth systems help us develop and use energy resources more efficiently and safely, while limiting the impacts on the geological environment, water resources, and ecosystems? In geo-energy research, this problem runs through resource formation and accumulation, exploration and assessment, production engineering, fluid migration, subsurface storage, and facility decommissioning. Solving it requires geological understanding, engineering technology, and environmental research to be brought closer together, and it needs forums where researchers from these fields and practitioners can meet.

The *Journal of Geo-Energy and Environment* (JGEE) was launched in 2025 with this aim. The inaugural editorial,

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"Uniting Geo-Energy and Environment Science for a Sustainable Future," proposed connecting geo-energy, environmental, and ecological research [1] and called for interdisciplinary collaboration in support of efficient, low-carbon energy use and environmental protection. Over the first two publication years, we have tried to turn this vision into a clear editorial focus, reliable content, and responsible publishing practice.

This review of 2025-2026 acknowledges the work of our authors, reviewers, editors, and readers, and considers the journal's next steps. We outline the progress JGEE has made and examine how its published research reflects its scope. We then discuss how to build on this foundation to raise quality, sharpen the journal's academic identity, and better serve the international research community.

2 Journal Development

2.1 Growth in Publication Output and Diversity of Article Types

In 2025, JGEE published two issues in Volume 1, comprising nine research articles and one inaugural editorial. Volume 2 (2026) contains four issues and 20 articles: 16 research articles, three reviews, and one perspective. Across the two publication years, the journal therefore published six issues and 30 articles, 29 of them non-editorial. These totals exclude articles assigned to Volume 3. Both the number of issues per year and the number of articles doubled relative to the inaugural year, and the journal now publishes research articles, reviews, and perspectives.

For a young journal, regular publication and a steady flow of submissions are essential to earning readers' trust. Publication volume, however, is only one measure of growth. A journal's long-term value depends more on whether its articles address meaningful questions, provide credible evidence, and offer results that later research and engineering practice can test and use. As output grows, JGEE will continue to put quality ahead of quantity.

2.2 CAS Indexing and Wider Research Dissemination

JGEE was indexed by Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) in March 2026. Inclusion in CAS makes published work easier to find and brings research on geochemistry, energy conversion, mass transport in geological media, and related environmental issues to a wider readership.

We thank the authors, reviewers, editorial team, and publisher who made this possible. We will build on it by improving article quality, bibliographic metadata, and publishing services.

2.3 Partnership with the International Mine Safety and Emergency Rescue Association

JGEE has become a Partner Journal of the International Mine Safety and Emergency Rescue Association (IMSERA), and its founding Editor-in-Chief has been invited to serve as a Vice President of the association. The partnership fits the journal's interest in subsurface resource development, the geological environment, and engineering safety, and it gives researchers a more direct link with engineering practitioners.

Safety and environmental problems in geo-energy development often have the same geological roots. Fault activity, rock damage, and fluid migration affect resource production and can also lead to wellbore instability, gas leakage, and groundwater contamination. Through the partnership, the journal hopes to attract work on underground engineering safety, hazard monitoring, environmental risk, and emergency response, particularly studies that start from field problems and return their results to field practice.

2.4 Appointment of Honorary Editors-in-Chief and Changes to the Editorial Board

Professors Ahmed E. Radwan and Xiugen Fu have joined JGEE as Honorary Editors-in-Chief. Their role is to help set the journal's academic direction, widen its international contacts, and support its long-term development.

The editorial board has also been restructured. As of October 6, 2026, the journal website listed 32 editors from 18 countries and regions, including the Honorary Editors-in-Chief, the Editor-in-Chief, Associate Editors, and Editorial Board Members. Their expertise covers petroleum geology, sedimentology and geochemistry, reservoir characterization, geomechanics, geothermal energy, hydrogen and subsurface storage, environmental research, and intelligent technologies.

In the next stage, JGEE will make fuller use of its editors' expertise when assigning handling editors and reviewers, and editors will be more closely involved in planning thematic collections, identifying important scientific questions, and supporting international exchange.

3 Research Overview

The articles published in the first two years show that JGEE has built an initial focus on petroleum geology, reservoir studies, and production engineering, with additional coverage of the low-carbon transition, environmental risks, and interdisciplinary methods. The overview below is organized by theme; the themes overlap.

3.1 Shale Gas Accumulation and Preservation

Shale gas has been a major topic since the journal's launch. Ren et al. [2] used formation-water chemistry, gas composition, and fault distribution to explain differences in shale gas preservation in the Longmaxi Formation, showing that fluid properties are useful indicators of preservation conditions. Li et al. [3] combined information on depositional setting, pore structure, natural fractures, and production performance for deep shales in the Luzhou area, and assessed the conditions for gas accumulation and the potential for developing vertically stacked intervals. Gong et al. [4] compared and classified shale intervals of the Wufeng and Longmaxi Formations in the Z205 well block and mapped the vertical and lateral distribution of high-quality reservoirs.

Huang et al. [5] examined relict synclines in Devonian-Carboniferous strata of the Guizhou-Guangxi region and assessed how structural style, deformation intensity, and fault properties affect shale gas preservation. Cao et al. [6] reviewed how tectonic deformation alters shale nanopores, linking large-scale structural modification with pore systems at the microscopic scale. Taken together, these studies show that pore space, tectonic evolution, and preservation conditions need to be assessed jointly, using observations, experiments, and simulations at several scales.

3.2 Sedimentation, Diagenesis, and Reservoir Heterogeneity

Several articles deal with resource formation and reservoir quality in different basins and lithologies. Shi et al. [7] combined organic geochemistry with burial and thermal history analysis to evaluate Paleogene-Neogene source rocks and their hydrocarbon generation potential in the Mangya area of the Qaidam Basin. Ren et al. [8] reconstructed the evolution of fluvial-lacustrine depositional systems in the Triassic Halahatang Formation of the Tahe Oilfield and examined how sediment supply, base level, paleotopography, and climate change jointly controlled sandstone distribution. Li [9] separated the effects of different dolomitization processes on pore creation and pore filling in the Tengger Formation of the Baiyinchagan Sag, a case study relevant to dolostone reservoirs in saline lacustrine basins.

On reservoir development, Li et al. [10] used core, well-log, seismic, and production data to identify mudstone interlayers in the Keshen A gas reservoir and related their distribution to flow barriers and water invasion. Qin et al. [11] evaluated hydrocarbon preservation in the Maokou Formation of the Leshan-Yibin area on the basis of structural deformation, caprock characteristics, formation water, and pressure. Cai et al. [12] investigated helium reservoirs in the northern Huazhou area of the Weihe Basin, combining reservoir-scale characteristics, pore-throat systems, and gas sources; this work extends the journal's coverage to strategic subsurface gas resources.

3.3 Rock-Fluid Interactions and Engineering Optimization

The relationships among rock properties, fluid behavior, and operating conditions are the basis for engineering optimization. Luo et al. [13] used hydration swelling, acoustic triaxial compression, and creep tests to examine how water-rock interaction changes the mechanical properties and time-dependent deformation of shale. Yang and Yang [14] analyzed how the water injection rate affects oil displacement and residual oil distribution in the Tankou Oilfield. Luo et al. [15] studied the compatibility of injection water with the reservoir and the resulting plugging mechanisms in the Gaoshangpu Oilfield, and proposed water-quality criteria for the study area. In all three cases, reservoir heterogeneity and fluid-rock interaction determine which engineering parameters are appropriate.

On analytical methods and field operations, one study tested laser Raman spectroscopy for measuring crude oil concentration in drilling fluids [16]. Another addressed reaming operations in blocked horizontal shale gas wells, relating circulation rate and pressure to cuttings transport and drill-string safety limits, with reported field applications [17]. Zhao et al. [18] reviewed gas sources, migration, and geological controls in tunnels excavated through non-coal strata, classified gas occurrence by origin, and identified research needs in detecting concealed gas and predicting the associated risks.

These studies link resource development with underground engineering safety. Reporting clearly the geological setting, the extent of validation, and the conditions under which a technique applies makes it easier for others to judge whether it can be used in practice.

3.4 Low-Carbon Development and Environmental Risks

Several articles deal directly with the links between geo-energy and the environment. Yang et al. [19] examined the development of carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) in China from technical, policy, and market perspectives. They discussed the connections among capture, transport, utilization, and storage, together with costs, source-sink matching, and the coordination needed for large-scale deployment, and showed that deployment depends on subsurface understanding as well as on engineering and policy conditions.

In a geochemical study of shale gas flowback fluids from the Zheng'an block in Guizhou, Yang et al. [20] documented high salinity, high chemical oxygen demand and ammonia nitrogen, and a microbial community dominated by iron bacteria, saprophytic bacteria, and sulfate-reducing bacteria. They discussed the implications for treatment and reuse, scaling and corrosion, and the operation of production facilities. The study ties fluid geochemistry directly to water management and equipment operation, which is exactly the kind of energy-environment problem within JGEE's scope.

Li [21] reviewed the use of digital twins to support environmentally resilient recovery of geo-energy infrastructure after disasters. The review proposed a conceptual framework that links monitoring, geological modeling, leakage risk, contaminant migration, and resource allocation; as the author notes, the framework still needs validation. These contributions point to the need for more work on environmental monitoring, pollution control, the safety of geological storage, and life-cycle management of infrastructure.

3.5 Data and Intelligent Technologies

Articles applying digital methods address exploration targeting, cost prediction, laboratory operations, and energy storage management. Abraham et al. [22] used machine learning to combine gravity and magnetic data with depth information and identified mineralized geological structures in Nigeria's Middle Benue Trough and adjacent areas. Ma et al. [23] combined principal component analysis (PCA) with a backpropagation (BP) neural network to predict shale gas drilling costs in southern Sichuan, an approach that can support investment decisions in field development.

In a perspective article, Kang et al. [24] discussed the prospects for embodied intelligence in oil and gas field laboratories, with attention to repetitive experiments, high-risk operations, and human-machine collaboration, and proposed a phased approach to validation. He et al. [25] developed a transfer-learning model for state-of-charge (SOC) estimation that remains accurate across a wide temperature range, which is relevant to battery energy storage systems installed underground.

Intelligent methods work best when they are constrained by geological mechanisms, physical laws, and field data, and when data quality, validation design, interpretability, and limits of applicability are reported openly.

3.6 Resource Sustainability and Environmental Geoscience

The journal has also published research on resource sustainability and environmental geoscience. Xiang et al. [26] used life cycle assessment to quantify the environmental burdens of iridium production, a contribution to understanding the environmental cost of critical-material supply chains. Wang et al. [27] examined spatiotemporal changes in vegetation carbon sinks and their drivers at the county scale in the Chengdu-Chongqing region, providing evidence for regional ecological management. Li et al. [28] discussed how lithology, tectonics, and surface processes together shaped the Danxia landforms of southern Sichuan, with implications for landscape conservation.

On energy systems and resource management, Bouramdane [29] used multicriteria analysis to compare transit strategies for the Africa Atlantic Gas Pipeline, weighing energy security, economic returns, and regional cooperation. Tana-Chulde and Medina-Rodriguez [30] combined a geographic information system (GIS) with the analytic hierarchy process (AHP) to select solar energy sites in Urcuqui, Ecuador, taking spatial conditions, resource suitability, and environmental factors into account.

These studies have broadened the journal's coverage. In future, JGEE will look for clearer connections between such interdisciplinary topics and geo-energy,

geological resource management, and environmental protection, so that the journal's academic focus becomes more distinctive.

4 Future Directions

4.1 Maintaining a Focus on Geo-Energy and Associated Environmental Issues

JGEE will continue to focus on the exploration, development, use, and storage of geo-energy resources and the environmental issues associated with them. Resource formation and assessment will remain central, covering conventional oil and gas, shale oil and gas, tight oil and gas, coalbed methane, and natural gas hydrates, as will reservoir characterization, geomechanics, fluid migration, and production engineering.

The journal will also strengthen the links between energy and environmental research. Priorities include water use, flowback fluid treatment, and contaminant migration during resource development; rock-mass stability and risk monitoring during reservoir stimulation; and the long-term integrity and environmental response of subsurface storage. Studies that combine evidence from several disciplines on these questions are particularly welcome.

4.2 Advancing Low-Carbon and Emerging Subsurface Energy Research

To support the energy transition, JGEE will actively seek research on geothermal energy, natural hydrogen, underground hydrogen storage, other forms of subsurface energy storage, and geological carbon storage, with an emphasis on geological resources, subsurface processes, storage conditions, and associated environmental issues.

Topics of particular interest include multiphase flow in porous and fractured media, fluid-rock reactions, wettability, caprock and wellbore integrity, the response of reservoirs to cyclic injection and withdrawal, and coupled multiphysics processes. We encourage studies that test their results against experiments, models, and monitoring data together. Assessing long-term operational safety and environmental benefits under specific geological and engineering conditions will be an important direction.

4.3 Developing Thematic Collections around Key Questions and Encouraging Integrative Research

Future thematic collections will address questions that cut across methods and disciplines, including resource accumulation and preservation in deep and structurally complex settings; the relationship between pore-fracture architecture and fluid transport; subsurface fluid activity and environmental risk; the integrity of geological storage and subsurface energy storage systems; and water management during resource development.

JGEE regards original research, critical reviews, and perspectives as complementary. Original research should provide new evidence or methods that others can check. Reviews should examine major controversies and gaps in the evidence, and perspectives should pose well-founded questions that merit investigation. Cross-basin comparisons, multiscale analyses, and long-term field studies can help show the wider relevance of regional findings.

4.4 Building International Visibility and Scholarly Influence through Quality

JGEE will continue to improve content quality, publishing standards, international participation, and research dissemination, and will work toward inclusion in databases such as Scopus and the Web of Science Core Collection. Whether this succeeds will depend on the journal's sustained performance and on independent evaluation by those services.

JGEE will keep refining its editorial procedures and peer review, and encourages authors to share data and methods where possible. Clear abstracts, figures, and tables, together with accurate metadata, help published work reach its readers. We particularly value findings that later studies can test and extend and that help solve practical geo-energy and environmental problems.

5 Acknowledgments and Closing Remarks

Over the 2025 and 2026 publication years, JGEE has expanded its content, gained CAS indexing, established an association partnership, and strengthened its editorial team. On behalf of the editors, we thank the authors who have trusted the journal with their work and the reviewers who have given their expertise and time. We also thank the editorial board members for their commitment, the ICCK team for publishing support, and our readers

for their interest.

JGEE will keep a clear academic direction, respect evidence and professional judgment, and remain open to interdisciplinary collaboration. We invite researchers, engineers, and practitioners worldwide to continue contributing to the journal and to the safe, efficient, and sustainable development of geo-energy resources.

Data Availability Statement

Not applicable.

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Conflicts of Interest

At the time of manuscript submission, Hu Li served as Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Geo-Energy and Environment* and Ahmed E. Radwan served as an Honorary Editor-in-Chief of the journal. Hu Li also serves as a Vice President of the International Mine Safety and Emergency Rescue Association, with which the journal has a partnership (Section 2.3). To ensure the integrity of the peer-review process, neither author was involved in the editorial handling, peer review, or decision-making process for this manuscript, which was handled independently by another editor. Neither author is affiliated with a commercial company.

AI Use Statement

During the preparation of this manuscript, ChatGPT was used for English translation and language editing. The authors take full responsibility for the accuracy and integrity of the final manuscript.

Ethical Approval and Consent to Participate

Not applicable.

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