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Editorial: Welcome to the first issue of Volume 7 of the EAI Endorsed Transactions on Smart Cities

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It is indeed a matter of great honour for me to write the preface in the first issue of 2023 for EAI Endorsed Transactions on Smart Cities. Launched in 2016, the journal is now into its 7th volume which adds a sense of pride and confidence.

Promoting smart cities is advantageous in terms of national benefits as it creates competitiveness, enables the business sector, improves living standards, directs proper utilization of resources, and the like. Smart Cities aim to make optimal and sustainable use of all resources while maintaining an appropriate balance between social, environmental, and economic costs.

The smart city concept represents an irrepressible platform for IT-enabled service innovation. It offers a view of the city where service providers use information technologies to engage with citizens to create more effective urban organizations and systems that can improve the quality of life. The emerging Internet of Things (IoT) model is foundational to the development of smart cities. The integrated cloud-oriented architecture of networks, software, sensors, human interfaces, and data analytics are essential for value creation. IoT smart-connected products and the services they provide will become crucial for the future development of smart cities.

The smart cities are aligned with UN sustainable development goals. Smart cities are expected to ensure harmlessness to the environment and be beneficial in whatever aspect possible. There is a broad scope of improvement in the development techniques that are currently in use. These limitations ought to be directed to potential future ideas. Multiple cities around the world have been converted to smart cities. There are varied examples of smart cities, and a lot can be learned from their experience and achievements.

I am extremely delighted to note that this journal emphasizes on smart cities and smart city projects, success stories and lessons learned from cities around the world. The contents in this issue have been organized in a reader friendly manner and the articles are worthy of further references and citations.
This issue has attracted contributions from several regions of the world, and I would like to thank the authors for submitting their works. I extend my appreciation to the reviewers and the editorial team for their focused review comments and editing.

I congratulate the team of EAI Endorsed Transactions on Smart Cities and wish good luck for the future issues.