

Preface

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In March 2013 (15th–21st), the Editors and Publishers of *Hydrobiologia* organised the first international conference on “Challenges in Aquatic Sciences” in Keelung (Taiwan). The host institute was the “Institute of Marine Biology, National Taiwan Ocean University”. There were more than 400 registered participants from 44 countries. 122 talks (in two parallel sessions) and 171 posters were scheduled, divided over 15 main scientific themes.

The main idea of the meeting was to provide Asian aquatic scientists with an opportunity to present their research to the world, and to get in touch with each other as well as with non-Asian colleagues. This goal was certainly reached, and several new collaborations have been initiated during this successful meeting. The present special issue of *Hydrobiologia* comprises a small subset of the great variety of topics that has been addressed in Keelung. Nevertheless, these papers give

a good representation of the types of challenges that have been discussed, and we are especially proud that this special issue very much has an ‘Asian’ touch to the topics presented, with special attention to toxins and algal blooms (6 papers), or water quality in general, invasive species (2 papers) and various aspects of the ecology of marine plankton (5 papers). Topics like climate change, disease control and effects of aquaculture each added one paper to the present proceedings.

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May this conference be well remembered by all. We are already looking forward to the Challenges II meeting!

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Challenges in Aquatic Sciences

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