Preface

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The Indo-Pacific Fish Conference (IPFC) was organized by John R. Paxton and Douglass F. Hoese, and held at the Australian Museum, Sydney in 1981 with 100 participants from 12 countries with 52 (49 oral and three poster) papers presented. Major themes of the IPFC were taxonomy, systematics, and evolution of fishes found primarily in the Indo-Pacific region. During the first IPFC, representatives from several countries discussed the future of the IPFC and asked a Japanese delegation to host the second IPFC in Japan. The second Indo-Pacific Fish Conference (IPFC2) was held in Tokyo in 1985. The IPFC2 saw 251 people attending from 26 countries and 179 papers. At the IPFC2, major representatives decided to hold IPFCs every four years and the third one in New Zealand. The IPFC3 was held in 1989 in Wellington. In the period from 1993 to 2009, the IPFCs have been hopping to cities in the Indo-Pacific region as follows: IPFC4 in Bangkok, Thailand in 1993; IPFC5 in Nouméa, New Caledonia in 1997; IPFC6 in Durban, South Africa in 2001; IPFC7 in Taipei, Taiwan in 2005; IPFC8 in Fremantle, Australia in 2009. The IPFCs have been growing in numbers of participants and papers with expansions of themes on studies on fishes. However, major themes have still been focused on taxonomy,

systematics, and evolution of fishes as seen in the IPFC1 in Sydney.

The IPFC9 was held at the Convention Center at Ginowan City in Okinawa from 24 to 28 June 2013. Five hundred and thirty-two people from 36 countries attended the IPFC9 to present and hear 462 papers (328 oral and 134 poster presentations). This great success of the IPFC9 led the Organizing Committee of IPFC9 to publish a special issue of *Ichthyological Research* to commemorate the conference. The period of IPFCs has seen great progresses in ichthyology, including taxonomy, systematics, evolution, ecology, behavior, and conservation. The Organizing Committee took the opportunity to invite review papers covering progress on taxonomy, systematics, and evolution of fishes over the years of the IPFC series. This special issue includes four review papers by long-time IPFC participants focusing on progress primarily on studies of taxonomy, systematics, and evolution of fishes during the period 1980–2014. We hope that this special issue will be useful for readers to look forward to developments in ichthyology over future IPFCs, including the IPFC10 to be held in Papeete, Tahiti in 2017.

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