Message from the new Editor-in-Chief of *Paddy and Water Environment*

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As the new Editor-in-Chief of the international journal *Paddy and Water Environment*, it is my pleasure and honor to inform you that successful, efficient, and timely publication of the first 14 years of the journal are now nearly complete. I am grateful for the persistent effort and involvement of the former Editors-in-Chief, namely, Drs. Yohei Sato, Yoshiki Nakano, and Masaru Mizoguchi. On behalf of the journal's board of directors and staff, I express my sincere thanks and appreciation for the recent editorial work by Editorial Board members, and especially by Drs. Yoshiyuki Shinogi and Jin-Yong Choi as Chief Managing Editors. We are also grateful for the ongoing support from our publisher, Springer Japan. On the occasion of the new Editorial Board's commencement in July 2016, I am taking this opportunity to review the journal's status and clarify the challenges as well as the aims of the new Editorial Board.

We have already received a large number of contributions from Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas. We are pleased that the number of contributions has continued to increase steadily, reaching about 180 manuscripts submitted annually in recent years. The total number of manuscripts already published in the journal's 55 issues (including 9 Special Issues) recently has exceeded 550. While submissions are expected to increase, we recognize the challenges in maintaining the scientific quality required

for an international journal. Aiming at continuously producing high-quality publications while increasing the efficiency of peer review, we have expanded the Editorial Board and made use of Managing Editors as well as a Chief Managing Editor to support the journal's growth.

In 2011, *Paddy and Water Environment* was selected for inclusion in the Science Citation Index Expanded (i.e., SCI searches) published by Thomson Reuters as well as in the Engineering Index of the Scopus database. Many articles published in other journals have cited papers published in *Paddy and Water Environment*. These journals include *Agricultural Water Management*, *Hydrological Processes*, *Ecological Engineering*, *Plant and Soil*, *Irrigation and Drainage*, *Irrigation Science*, *Water Resources Management*, *Soil Science Society of America Journal*, *Field Crops Research*, *Journal of Hydrology*, *Journal of Irrigation and Drainage Engineering*, *Soil Science*, and *Transactions of the ASAE*. These results are encouraging for the editorial team to keep up our efforts in delivering useful contents to the research field.

To improve external evaluations of *Paddy and Water Environment*, we have proposed additional measures, such as shortening the submission-to-publication time, solicitation of scientific review papers by prominent researchers, the promotion of special issues, and reform of the Editorial Board's roles. We would be grateful to receive additional suggestions from our readers.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that the new Editorial Board, including Chief Managing Editor Dr. Yu-Pin Lin from National Taiwan University and five Managing Editors, namely, Drs. Jin-Yong Choi, Chihhao Fan, Nobuyoshi Fujiwara, Kimihito Nakamura, and Andrew Whitaker, will strive to continue the smooth operation of *Paddy and Water Environment*. We very much appreciate your continued support for the journal.

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