Foreword

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This special issue of *Biogeochemistry* contains a collection of original papers from BIOGEOMON, the 6th International Symposium on Ecosystem Behavior, held in Helsinki, Finland on June 29th–July 3rd 2009. Since the very first convening symposium of the BIOGEOMON series held in Prague in 1987, which hosted a small number of delegates, the venue has continued not only to thrive, but also to grow. Over 400 hundred participants from more than 32 countries on 5 continents convened at the Helsinki meeting, which is double the number of participants at the 2006 meeting held in Santa Cruz, California. Previous meetings of the BIOGEOMON series had been held in Prague (1987, 1993), Villanova (1997), and Reading (2004).

BIOGEOMON's emphasis is on ecosystem biogeochemistry as a dynamic, integrated, and highly evolving discipline, including research at the watershed, ecosystem, landscape and global scale. In addition to traditionally emphasized themes, the Helsinki meeting included a regional focus with sessions devoted to peatland biogeochemistry, environmental impacts of bioenergy production, atmosphere-forest interactions, and biogeochemistry

aspects of ecosystem restoration and rehabilitation. Papers published in this special issue of *Biogeochemistry* cover a wide array of research topics from the microscale, such as microbial and rhizosphere dynamics, to the macroscale including integrated monitoring and modeling.

BIOGEOMON 2009 was hosted by the Finnish Forest Research Institute (METLA), The University of Helsinki, and the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) in association with the Czech Geological Survey (CR), Villanova University (USA), the University of Reading (UK), the Geological Survey of Finland (GTK), and the Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI). The success of BIOGEOMON 2009 derived from the dedication and tireless efforts of Martin Forsius (SYKE), Mike Starr (University of Helsinki), Liisa Ukonmaanaho (METLA), Tiina Nieminen (METLA) and Tuija Mattsson (SYKE).

In keeping with the tradition of alternating BIOGEOMON venues between Europe and North America, BIOGEOMON 2012 will be held on 16–21 July 2012 at the Point Lookout Resort & Conference Center, located on over 150 ha of picturesque landscape overlooking Penobscot Bay in mid-coast Maine, USA. Drs. Stephen Norton and Ivan Fernandez from the University of Maine are heading the local organizing committee. We hope you will join us in Maine in 2012!

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