Editorial

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The first issue of Journal of Seismology came out in 1997. The idea of publishing a new international Journal of Seismology (JOSE), dedicated to all subjects related to earthquake and engineering seismology, was born within a group of scientist of the European Seismological Community, together with Kluwer (now Springer). Seven years ago, I took over the work of the founding Editor in Chief, Prof. Agust Udias, full of motivation and enthusiasm to further improve the scientific role and impact of JOSE.

From the beginning, the journal was truly international and covered a broad, multidisciplinary scope. JOSE has reached today all its objectives, established its role and identity within our community and between the other “big players” worldwide, and has become, as I believe, an esteemed high-level journal serving all those who work in the field of seismology.

The last 4 years, we published more than 115 original research papers and several research notes. Eight special issues were published. Contributing authors come from all countries worldwide, and the number of contributions is increasing. The impact factor continuously increased in the last 7 years and is today comfortable above 1 (1.33 in the last survey).

This would not have been possible without the numerous reviewers, who advised us on the quality of submitted papers and recommended acceptance,

revisions, or rejections, if necessary, always in an effort to maintain the high quality of accepted papers.

I want to give my thanks and appreciations to our Associate Editors (AE) and Guest Editors for Special Issues, for their excellent work and recommendations concerning papers in their respective fields of expertise. It has been a pleasure to work with all of you. I acknowledge the work of Senior Publishing Editor, Petra van Steenberg, and the editorial office for their continuous support and advice.

Now, that I step down and look back, I want to say that I did never regret my decision to take the post 7 years ago. Taking responsibility and serving our community as editor in chief was an interesting and inspiring experience and work, bringing many highlights.

This was not obvious since the number of submitted papers steadily increased, including those of poor quality, while the number of involved AEs over the years decreased, unfortunately. I believe it is important to continue to involve a broad team of experts as AEs, covering the full range of the scope of JOSE, in order to keep the high standard and quality of the journal.

I step down because I took new responsibilities and challenges within the GeoForschungsZentrum (GFZ) Potsdam, Germany, and would not feel well to serve the community without sufficient time for careful manuscript handling, decisions, and editing. I also believe that change in the staff of editors is needed from time to time to bring new ideas and chances. I pass the enterprise of JOSE to the hands of Prof. Mariano Garcia Fernandez and wish him a lucky hand.

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