Developments and directions of the Journal of Soils and Sediments: 2011 and beyond

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By the end of 2010, the Journal of Soils and Sediments (JSS) will have successfully concluded its first 10 years of publication—an important milestone in the life of JSS. In an editorial in the last issue of 2010, we expressed our appreciation and sincere thanks to the retiring Editors-in-Chief: Professor Ulrich Förstner (Sediments) and Professor Wim Salomons (Intercompartment). From 2011, JSS will only have two major areas of “Soils” and “Sediments”, with Zhihong Xu to continue as the Editor-in-Chief (Soils) and Philip Owens to serve as the Editor-in-Chief (Sediments). For submissions in those areas linking soils and sediments, such as climate change impacts and catchment processes, we will assess the relevant submissions jointly and assign corresponding subject editors and referees accordingly to ensure that they can be evaluated adequately by interdisciplinary experts and subject editors. Here, we are pleased to present a brief update on the Soils and Sediments areas of JSS in 2011 and beyond. In a future issue, we plan to write a more comprehensive editorial on future direction of soils and sediments research.

The JSS Soils area continues to have five sections: (1) Soil organic matter dynamics and nutrient cycling; (2)

Global change, environmental risk assessment, and sustainable land use; (3) Remediation and management of contaminated or degraded lands; (4) Ecotoxicology and (5) Soil and landscape ecology. Since 2010, we have expanded our subject editors in the Soils areas, particularly Professors Weixin Cheng (USA), Thomas Deluca (UK) and Caixian Tang (Australia) joining the Soils Section 1; Professor Rainer Horn (Germany), Dr Ying Ouyang (USA) and Professor Huijun Zhao (Australia) for the Soils Section 2; Professor Hong Di (New Zealand) for the Soils Section 3; and Professor John Cairney (Australia) for the Soils Section 5. Furthermore, we are pleased to announce the recent additions of three more subject editors in the Soils area: Professor Qixing Zhou (China) for the Soils Section 4; and Professors Leo Condron (New Zealand) and Yanfen Wang (China) for the Soils Section 5. We would also like to thank Dr. Werner Kördel (Germany), who has recently decided to step down as the Associate Subject Editor from the Soils Section 4, for his valuable contribution and inputs to the JSS in the past years.

The JSS Sediments area has changed to five sections: (1) Sediment quality and impact assessment; (2) Physical and biogeochemical processes; (3) Hillslope and river basin sediment dynamics; (4) Sediment–ecology interactions and (5) Sediment management. Some of these sections represent new and exciting areas within sediment research, and it is hoped that this new framework will attract manuscripts in these areas. Accordingly, there has been a change in subject editors in the Sediments area of JSS to reflect these new sections. We are pleased to welcome Ian Foster (UK), Kim Irvine (USA), Brian Kronvang (Denmark), Klaus Kuhn (Switzerland), David Lobb (Canada) and Geraldene Wharton (UK), as new subject editors. In addition, I am grateful that both Ulrich Förstner and Wim Salomons have agreed

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to become subject editors within section (5). It is anticipated that there will be some additional subject editors in the near future. Several subject editors have also stepped down, including Fritz Frimmel (Germany), Lasse Gerrits (The Netherlands), Kay Hamer (Germany), Susanne Heise (Germany), Edeltrauda Helios-Rybicka (Poland), Thomas Knacker (Germany), Philippe Quevauviller (Belgium), Kevin Taylor (UK), Joop Vegter (The Netherlands) and

Bernhard Westrich (Germany); I would like to thank all of these people for their hard work and support of the journal in recent years.

We would welcome any constructive comments and suggestions from our valuable authors, referees and readers on the next phase developments and directions of JSS and will do our best to serve the soils and sediment community in 2011 and beyond.