Editorial: Special issue to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Geosciences Journal: Geosciences research in Korea and beyond

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This issue is dedicated to the 20th anniversary of Geosciences Journal, which is co-published by the Association of Korean Geosciences Societies (AKGS) and Springer Nature. During the years before 1997, 10 geosciences societies in Korea established an integrated association and agreed to publish a new international journal. The inaugural issue of Geosciences Journal came out in March of 1997. Since then, approximately 870 papers have been published in this journal. I applaud the decisions, and admire the leadership of all board members of the societies belonging to the AKGS. I would like to recognize the enormous effort and dedication of the previous and present editorial board members. Without them, this journal would not have become what it is today. Most importantly, I note the commitment and dedication of the founding Editor-in-Chief, Professor Sung Kwun Chough, for preparing a new international journal and successfully publishing its inaugural issue. Geosciences Journal started as a quarterly journal and became a bi-monthly journal in 2016. It publishes approximately 80 papers, out of 600 submissions a year. The growth and development of Geosciences Journal are the results of several previous Editors-in-Chiefs (EICs), Professors Sung Kwun Chough, Wooil M. Moon, Duck K. Choi, Chang-Eob Baag, and Jin-Han Ree. I have taken advantage of the traditions and journal editorial systems established by the previous EICs.

From its beginning, Geosciences Journal has provided a unique publication platform to Korean geoscientists for their research in geological sciences in Korea and Northeast Asia. As time has passed, the geographical regions and areas of study of the papers in Geosciences Journal have gradually expanded: as of 2016, more than 80% of the journal's submissions were from countries outside of Korea. Thus, Geosciences Journal, which once provided a limited window into the Korean geosciences, has become a

genuine international journal that offers a global view into the geosciences. Given the journal's 20 years of publication history, some papers in Geosciences Journal received significant international attention as shown in the Web of Science citation data. Large numbers of citations have come primarily from, but not restricted to, studies in traditional areas of geology, such as petrology, structural geology, and paleontology. Geosciences Journal strongly welcomes paper submissions on related topics. Up to this point, the papers with most citations are from studies closely related to the tectonic setting and the evolution of the Asian continents, including the Korean Peninsula (e.g., Choi, 1998; Buslov et al., 2001; Yumul et al., 2008).

This special issue deals with the progress of geosciences made in the last two decades in Korea. This special issue was proposed at a board meeting of the Geological Society of Korea (GSK) to commemorate its 70th anniversary, and Professor Yuong-Nam Lee of Seoul National University was appointed as a guest editor. I sincerely thank Professor Lee for taking responsibility for arranging the subjects in this special issue. As a first step in selecting papers for the special issue, a preliminary list of papers was compiled on the basis of applications from voluntary authors. The journal's regular reviewing process was applied to all submitted manuscripts and the accepted papers are included in this special issue. Topics include reviews of paleontological studies in Korea such as trilobites by Choi and Park (2017) and vertebrate body fossils by Choi and Lee (2017). An overview of the tectonic evolution of Precambrian massifs is provided by Cho et al. (2017). The Ordovician–Devonian fossil-bearing strata with their implications on the tectonic evolution are discussed by Lee et al. (2017). The groundwater and hydrogeological studies are reviewed for the past 50 years in Korea by Lee et al. (2017). Some global issues are also included: reviews on the seismic stratigraphy of late Pleistocene lowstand of the Korean

Strait (Yoo et al., 2017), and banded iron formations in the North China Craton (Moon et al., 2017). Recent trends of the microstructure or mineral anisotropy for implications on geological processes are summarized by Kim and Sanislav (2017) and Jung (2017). A concise review of landslide prediction and monitoring is provided by Chae et al. (2017)

The hope is that this special issue is interesting to anyone concerned with selected topics of the geosciences in Korea. This hope is extended to the next anniversary issue, which is expected to contain more diverse and challenging topics, including omissions that regretfully do not appear in this issue.

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