Message from the new Chief Editor

Tetsuo Gotoh

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It is with great pleasure that I have accepted the invitation to act as Chief Editor of *Applied Entomology and Zoology* for the period 2013–2014. *Applied Entomology and Zoology* is the official English-language journal of the Japanese Society of Applied Entomology and Zoology. My most important duty as Chief Editor is to ensure the scientific quality of *Applied Entomology and Zoology*. Given the width of the journal's scope, it goes without saying that I can do this only with the help of the four associate editors, Drs. Takashi Matsuo, Atsushi Mochizuki, Jun Tabata, and Haruki Tatsuta, and the Editorial Board. Coverage of *Applied Entomology and Zoology* spans a wide diversity of fields, including ecology, environmental science, ethology, molecular biology, physiology, taxonomy and toxicology concerned with both pest and beneficial insects and other animals. I feel responsible for the continuation of *Applied Entomology and Zoology* as a leader in these scientific fields, not only in Japan but across all of Asia.

The Japanese Society of Applied Entomology and Zoology decided to publish *Applied Entomology and*

Zoology with Springer beginning in 2011 to reach a wider audience as an international journal. Publication with Springer has made access from other countries easier: compared with 2009, the number of submissions in 2011 has increased by 28 %, and the rejection rate has gone up from 64 % in 2009 to 74 % in 2011. The journal's impact factor has increased to 1.14 in 2011. To keep up with the increased submission rate, I have decided to increase the number of associate editors to four (three in 2012) and the number of foreign editorial board members to 16 (13 in 2012). With these changes, I am convinced that the time from submission to first decision will be shortened and that the quality of published papers will be ensured as before.

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