Greetings from the new Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Plant Research* 2021

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It is my pleasure to be writing this editorial as Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Plant Research* (*JPR*) for the next 4 years, following the former Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Kouki Hikosaka of Tohoku University. I will do my best to improve *JPR* along with all editors, board members, and readers.

As previously described (Hikosaka 2017), we are proud that world famous findings on the sperm of *Ginkgo biloba* L. (Hirase 1896) and *Cycas revoluta* Thunb. (Ikeno 1896) were published in *Shokubutsugaku Zasshi* (*The Botanical Magazine, Tokyo*), the predecessor of *JPR*. The name of the journal was changed to the present *Journal of Plant Research* in 1993, and online publication launched in 2003. *JPR* is continuously growing, and its Impact Factor is 2.185 in 2019. *JPR* is recognized as a Q1 journal (2019) in the Plant Science category. *JPR* received 961 submissions last year, and, as an international journal, 94% submitted manuscripts were from outside of Japan. Unfortunately, we cannot accept many of these manuscripts due to our page limitation.

JPR is dedicated to the dissemination of fundamental knowledge in all areas of basic plant sciences. This journal's wide scope is unique nowadays, as scientific interests and many journals' scopes tend to be specialized and narrow. However, we believe that *JPR* can strongly contribute to developing new and interdisciplinary areas of basic plant biology. Current techniques and technology actually accelerate the fusion of areas, and *JPR* encourages the publication of such articles, for example, papers in the present *JPR* symposium "Beyond fibonacci patterns and the golden angle: phyllotactic variations and their cellular origin" (see below pages in this issue) and the last *JPR* symposium "Toward an understanding of nuclear substructures beyond their classical functions" (Sakamoto and Sakamoto 2020).

In recent years, research integrity has become more and more important. *JPR* supports and promotes this trend. Research integrity contains many aspects, but when it comes

to publishing, falsification is, of course, strictly prohibited. Double/multiple submissions and plagiarism are automatically monitored at the submission stage, including those covering the author's own work, and suspicious submissions are immediately refused by *JPR*. Preprints and doctoral theses are not included in double submissions, but their status must be clearly stated in the manuscript. These research misconducts are not the end-all and be-all of research integrity. We will strive to ensure that the following positive aspects of research integrity are enforced: objectivity of research, honesty of researchers, fairness of peer review and evaluation of previous research, legitimate authorship, etc.

Along with research integrity, *JPR* is also committed to promoting publication innovation. Improving the efficiency of the submission and peer review system, and speeding up the publication process will be necessary for *JPR* to be more widely accepted and appreciated by authors and readers in the future. This will not be easy to achieve, but *JPR* will work on innovation step by step. For example, a more author-friendly submission style/system should be considered.

I would like to express my appreciation for this year's editors; Drs. Koji Takayama, Juan Núñez-farfán, Yanhong Tang, Atushi Ushimaru, Haruhiko Taneda, Akitoshi Iwamoto, Ali Ferjani, Kimitsune Ishizaki, Jutta Papenbrock, Shigemi Seo, Michael Wrzaczek, Koichiro Awai, Yoshitaka Nishiyama, Misato Ohtani, Kohki Yoshimoto. They really contribute to *JPR* by handling a large number of manuscripts. Some of them started their works since last January as Prof. Hikosaka (2021) reported. I also give much thanks to the Advisory Board members, and Editorial Board members. I also greatly appreciate the secretary work of Dr. Masako Mishio, and English proofing by Mr. Miles Peterson. *JPR* is supported by these members and will continuously publish the fruits of plant sciences.

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