

Editorials

Achievements in 2007 and Perspectives for 2008

Almut Beate Heinrich¹ (Publisher-Editor) and Alvin L. Young² (Editor-in-Chief)

¹ ecomed publishers (Verlagsgruppe Hüthig Jehle Rehm GmbH), Im Weiher 10, 69121 Heidelberg, Germany (almut.heinrich@hjr-verlag.de)

² Visiting Professor, Institute for Science and Public Policy, Sarkeys Energy Center, The University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma, USA (youngrisk@aol.com)

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1065/espr2007.10.455>

The year 2007 has turned out to be a milestone for ESPR, and hence for all those associated with the Journal.

1 Page Budget 2007. This year we have published seven regular issues instead of six, and one Special Issue, i.e. a supplement. The title of this Special Issue, 'ESPR's Total Environment', reflects the new ESPR-Framework of 10 Subject Areas (see the front and back inside cover of an issue). With the beginning of the 15th volume in 2008, the ten areas will be reduced to nine (see section 2).

Nonetheless, even two additional issues could not comprise the number of articles to be published. Therefore, we had to additionally extend the regular page budget (64 pages per issue) of each edition. Without the Special Issue of 80 pages, we published a total of 552 pages, whereas the regular budget would have yielded 448 pages. So we have 104 pages in excess that we had offered for free.

On the one hand, this is an indicator that the scientific credibility of ESPR is high, which we note with great pleasure. This is also an indicator for the effectiveness of our Framework, as well as of our Principal Subject Editors, Subject Editors, and Associate Subject Editors pertaining to the 10 Subject Areas. On this occasion, we would like to express our gratitude to them for their dedicated work.

On the other hand, this positive indicator has the negative consequence that remunerations and costs are not well balanced. With the first issue in 2008, it will not be possible to extend the regular budget of 64 pages per issue. The significant impact of this action means that the peer-review process has to be handled even more stringently, and that we must request our authors to restrict the maximum length for their articles to 8 printed pages.

2 ESPR-Framework. The Framework was created in 2006 to provide improved and more targeted publication opportunities in ESPR. As indicated above, the existing ten Subject Areas will be reduced to nine. The tenth area is more of a Section than a real Subject Area, i.e. a forum for papers from China on a broad variety of subjects to present the ongoing research progress in this very fast developing country. However, due to the increased awareness of publications from China in ESPR by the scientific community, these articles – including the three Editors for Area 10 – will now be incorporated into the nine real Subject Areas. The increase in submissions from China (see also this issue [1–3,5]), as well as the remarkable increase in quality, are the excellent results of Yongguan Zhu, Baodong Chen and Jiabao Zhang. The fourth Editor, Zhihong Xu, has meanwhile become Principal Subject Editor for ESPR-Subject Area 1, jointly with Henner Hollert, and also Editor-in-Chief for the area 'Soils' in the

'Journal of Soils and Sediments'. It has been a fortunate opportunity to meet the four of them, and we look forward to deepening our cooperation and to realizing our great challenge of an ESPR-supported workshop in China, under the auspices of these Editors. The theme in discussion is 'Risk-Based Environmental Decision Making in China'.

3 The ESS. We are delighted to see that our Electronic Submission System (<<http://www.scientificjournals.com/sj/all/ESS>>) has gained acceptance from the scientific community. This trend of acceptance will continue, because we are continually improving the ESS towards the best possible user-friendliness that can be obtained.

The ESS that has been operating since 2005, and has tripled the number of paper submissions, not only for ESPR, but for the whole family of www.scientificjournals.com [Journal of Soils and Sediments (JSS), The International Journal of Life Cycle Assessment (Int J LCA) and the German-language journal *Umweltwissenschaften und Schadstoff-Forschung (UWSF)*]. We currently count 400 articles in the ESS, and this number is growing each day.

4 Impact Factor. ESPR enjoyed a considerable increase in the Impact Factor for 2006 (from 1.518 in the 2005 JCR Science Edition to 1.980 in the 2006 JCR Science Edition). The current calculation for the Impact Factor for 2007, to be published around mid-2008, yields a Factor of 2.7.

5 Perspectives: Transition to Springer. ESPR, with the whole journals family (www.scientificjournals.com), will be transferred to Springer at the end of 2007 (please see [4] for further details). The Editors have great expectations that will result from this transition, in particular regarding the global gateways of Springer. The transition will be performed seamlessly, at least with regard to authors, editors, referees and all associates. Nothing will be changed unless specific details or items can be improved. We look forward to working with Springer for a bright future for the journals and all the associates involved.

References

- [1] Cao L, Wang W, Yang Y, Yang C, Yuan Z, Xiong S, Diana J (2007): Environmental Impact of Aquaculture and Countermeasures to Aquaculture Pollution in China. *Env Sci Pollut Res* 14 (7) 452–462
- [2] Cai H, Sun Y (2007): Management of Marine Cage Aquaculture. Environmental Carrying Capacity Method Based on Dry Feed Conversion Rate. *Env Sci Pollut Res* 14 (7) 463–469
- [3] Su J, Wang H, Kimberley MO, Beecroft K, Magesan GN, Hu C (2007): Fractionation and Mobility of Phosphorus in a Sandy Forest Soil Amended with Biosolids. *Env Sci Pollut Res* 14 (7) 529–535
- [4] Young A, Roos P (2007): www.ScientificJournals.com embarking new shores (Editorial). Announcement and Welcome Greeting. *Env Sci Pollut Res* 14 (6) 351
- [5] Yu X-Z, Gu J-D (2007): Metabolic Responses of Weeping Willows to Selenate and Selenite. *Env Sci Pollut Res* 14 (7) 510–517