Editorial

Only three months ago, the editor-in-chief of JGG, Prof. Masaru Kono, sent all the subscribers a new year greeting message in his editorial for the volume 49 of JGG. In this editorial, he referred to a possible big change of JGG, not simply a change of journal title but a major change to be regarded as the continuation of not only JGG but also another geophysical journal "Journal of Physics of the Earth" (JPE). The latter is the journal which has been published jointly by three societies; they are the Seismological Society of Japan, the Volcanological Society of Japan, and the Geodetic Society of Japan.

Prof. Kono expressed this change as a surprise in his editorial. Who could imagine that I must imitate, in another sense, his expression in only a few months? He was obliged to leave his editorship in spite of the fact that one more year is left for the editorship term. The main reason for this is that he was elected President of the Society of Geomagnetism and Earth, Planetary and Space Sciences which has published JGG. There seems to be the implicit consensus that the posts of society president and journal editor-in-chief should not be occupied by one person at the same time. For this reason he suggested to me to take over to which I agreed. Thus I will serve as the editor-in-chief of JGG for the remaining term of one year. From 1998, I will be the editor-in-chief of the new journal, and so there will be no trouble in the transition from JGG.

The shift to the new journal itself is good news for the editorial committee in the sense that the shift reflects a great role JGG has played during the past half century in the research fields of geomagnetism, paleomagnetism, aeronomy, space physics, solar-terrestrial physics, etc. At the same time, however, it has also been recognized that the scope of JGG should be extended so that various aspects of planetary science are also included. It is thus timely to cooperate with the Japanese Society for Planetary Sciences, which was organized in 1992. Planetary science has also links with Earth science such as seismology, volcanology, geodesy and material science and a close tie with such fields is unavoidable. These fields have been covered by JPE and quite naturally, the merge of these two journals, JGG and JPE, has been considered an important step toward a borderless Earth, planetary and space science in the 21st century. In view of these, we chose a journal title explicitly reflecting the extended scope; that is "Earth, Planets and Space" (EPS). This journal is scheduled to start with the January 1998 issue of volume 50, because it is regarded as a direct successor of JGG volume 49.

From the editorial point of view, I would say, as the editor-in-chief of EPS, that no drastic change will be undertaken and the review process will be nearly the same as the current JGG review process. One important new policy is more emphasis on letters.

Since the new journal is an extension of JGG, any papers under the scope of JGG are welcome and the editorial committee will be very happy if such papers are submitted to the editor-in-chief of EPS at the same address as JGG. Alternatively, these papers may be submitted to JGG during 1997 on the condition that they may appear either in JGG or in EPS, depending on how short the review process will be until a final review decision is made. Any authors can choose JGG, if the final decision is reached before the deadline for printing of the final December 1997 issue of JGG.

Finally the editorial committee thanks all the subscribers and contributors for their continuing support to JGG and we also hope that the same support will be continued to EPS.

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Yoshimori Honkura
Editor-in-Chief