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EDITORIAL

Since my childhood, I have always been fascinated with the natural world; toying with market fish and prawns, grasshoppers from the field, tadpoles from the clogged drain, and teasing mimosa leaves. As I grew older, interest in keeping aquarium fish became a lifelong affair. On entering NUS, I got into "fishy business" seriously, under the guidance of Peter Ng and Maurice Kottelat. Besides encountering ichthyological gems like *Paedocypris progenetica*, I found that Southeast Asia holds key to immense biological diversity. My first introduction to the Raffles Bulletin of Zoology (RBZ) was a truly eye opening experience in 1992 when I was introduced to my first scientific journal as an undergraduate. Now in 2011, I am truly fortunate to step in as RBZ's sixth managing editor.

Tan Swee Hee, the immediate past managing editor, had put in tremendous efforts to transform RBZ into an online journal since 2005, and this has been a rollercoaster journey. As of 2009, the impact factor of RBZ stands at 1.36, a very respectable index for an international journal dealing primarily with the taxonomy of Southeast Asian fauna. Part of the rising impact factor comes from the fact that biodiversity research and conservation have now become major global concerns.

The current policy prevails: the Raffles Bulletin of Zoology will continue to accept manuscripts on taxonomy and ecology of fauna from within the geographic scope of Southeast Asia. Papers on fauna from areas immediately adjacent or relevant to Southeast Asia (e.g., southern parts of China such as Yunnan or Hainan) or from drainages that are shared with Southeast Asia (e.g., Salween or Mekong) may, at the discretion of the Editors, be considered although priority will always be given to articles on Southeast Asian fauna. Furthermore, RBZ will not publish short notes or papers consisting solely of redescriptions or new records unless the Editors and/or Referees regard them as having exceptional interest. This is unavoidable as the number of quality papers the Bulletin has received over the years has been overwhelming and tough choices need to be made. However, occasional supplements will continue to be published (depending on the availability of external funding) – 23 have been published to date. Some exciting upcoming supplements include the proceedings of the 2009 hornbill conference, a tome on Southeast Asian inland fish systematics, and one on Singapore freshwater aquatic biology.

All published papers in the regular issues of RBZ are available for download by any person with internet access completely free-of-charge. This continues to be in line with our policy of the dissemination of scientific information to as wide an audience as possible. A minimal number of hard copies will still be printed in accordance to Article 8 of the 1999 International Code of Zoological Nomenclature to satisfy the criterion of publication for new taxa.

A general meeting was conducted in October 2010 with Editor-in-Chief and the majority of the Associate Editors. Amongst the agenda discussed, methods to support and improve current RBZ's standing, and a limited appointment term for Editorial Board members. These will be discussed further and more details will be revealed at a later date.

I would like to thank Matthew Lim, who is now pursuing an overseas postdoctoral programme, and Martyn Low, who is now pursuing a graduate degree in Japan; and also extend a warm welcome to two new Associate Editors: Kevin Conway (Texas A & M University) and Zeehan Jaafar (NUS), covering freshwater and marine fishes respectively. I am also very fortunate to have the RBZ editorial team, consisting of Tran Anh Duc (Hanoi University of Science), Tohru Naruse (University of Ryukyus), Tan Koh Siang (Tropical Marine Science Institute), Chua Keng Soon, Joelle Lai, Li Daiqin, Rudolf Meier, Peter Ng, Greasi Simon, Peter Todd and Darren Yeo (NUS); the RBZ editorial board with new member, Tan Swee Hee; and look forward to their continued support and assistance to carry RBZ into the next phase.

Tan Heok Hui
Managing Editor