

EDITORIAL

Due to sabbatical leave by Dr. Peter K. L. Ng, I am assuming the responsibility of the editor-in-chief for the RAFFLES BULLETIN OF ZOOLOGY for one year. I hope that I will be able to maintain the high standards set by Dr. Ng. I thank Dr. Ng for the smooth transfer of manuscripts and giving me advice as and when needed.

It is my extreme pleasure to welcome four new additions, Dr. E. O. Wilson, Dr. Daniel Simberloff, Dr. Hugh A. Ford, and Dr. Y. Tsubaki to our editorial board. All these are well established scientists in the fields of Conservation Biology and Ecology. I hope that with their addition, the journal will establish itself as a leading journal in the region in the fields of Conservation Biology and Ecology as it has done for the Taxonomy and Systematics.

We are soliciting manuscripts from established scientists for the newly established perspective section. The contributions should be in the fields of Conservation Biology, Ecology, or Taxonomy and should be relevant to Southeast Asia. Any person interested can either contact me directly or any of the Associate Editors. We also welcome any comments on published papers in the journal which will be featured in our newly established forum section.

There has been a concern recently expressed that the number of naturalists in biology is dwindling rapidly (Noss, R. F., 1996: The naturalists are dying off. *Conserv. Biol.*, **10**: 1-3). Due to the emphasis on technological development by the modern society, naturalists are being rapidly replaced by indoor biologists (molecular biologists, etc.). I guess, we can consider this trend as a part of the natural selection in modernizing the biology. However, I argue that this artificial natural selection could have dire consequences for the biodiversity of Southeast Asia. We have not yet been able to scientifically record many species in this high species diversity region let alone to know about their ecological requirements. I hope that this journal will continue trying its best to establish a "reward" system by quickly publishing high quality papers based on the biodiversity needs of the region.

I thank all the authors, referees, and Associate Editors for their help. I especially am grateful to our publication editor, Mr. Tommy Tan, for his efficient assistance.

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RAFFLES BULLETIN OF ZOOLOGY