

## EDITORIAL

*The Raffles Bulletin of Zoology* is now in its 22<sup>nd</sup> year of publication in its new form. Over these years, the publication has evolved from a predominantly local one, to a bulletin having a regional coverage, and now positions itself as an international journal focused on the biodiversity of tropical Southeast Asia and Indo-West Pacific. It is the journal's fundamental philosophy that the editorial leadership must change at regular intervals so that it can evolve with the times. Tan Swee Hee is the fifth editor of the *Bulletin*, counting from the founder Dennis "Paddy" Murphy in 1987. Over the years, Navjot Sodhi, Darren Yeo and I have done stints as managing editor of the journal. This "renewal" is good for the long-term development of the journal. While many things have changed, the journal's focus on zoology of Southeast Asia has not. And as one of the very few Asian journals in the Science Citation Index in this domain, the journal has been instrumental in helping to spearhead biodiversity research on Southeast Asian biodiversity.

After over five and a half years at the helm of the *Bulletin*, the stage is set again for a change in management. As Tan Swee Hee moves to a new task of overseeing the building of a new natural history museum for Singapore next year, he will be gradually handing the reins to his colleague and fellow taxonomist, Tan Heok Hui. Tan Heok Hui is no novice to the journal as he has served as an associate editor for many years, guest-edited supplements and is also a practising systematist of Southeast Asian fish. In the last five years, Swee Hee has been responsible for redefining the journal's scope, getting it into the electronic domain, overseeing its transition to an almost "paperless" one, and raising its profile internationally. He has ensured that the impact of this journal in the academic world continues to rise, even as the number of published papers have increased substantially. The impact factor (as determined by the *Journal Citation Reports*®) has more than doubled since 2000 (see Fig. 1). And for a primarily taxonomic journal, its present impact is very respectable. The last five years have also been the busiest period ever experienced by the journal, with 267 papers published in 12 issues, and another 169 papers in 11 supplements. The journal thanks him for his diligence, professionalism and hard work in ensuring the *Bulletin* remains a major player in global biodiversity research. Leaving the editorial team at the same time is the assistant editor for the journal, Martyn Low, who moves to the University of the Ryukyus to pursue his higher degree. Martyn has been invaluable, not only in seeing the *Bulletin* to press, but also with ensuring its sister publication, *Nature in Singapore*, is published.

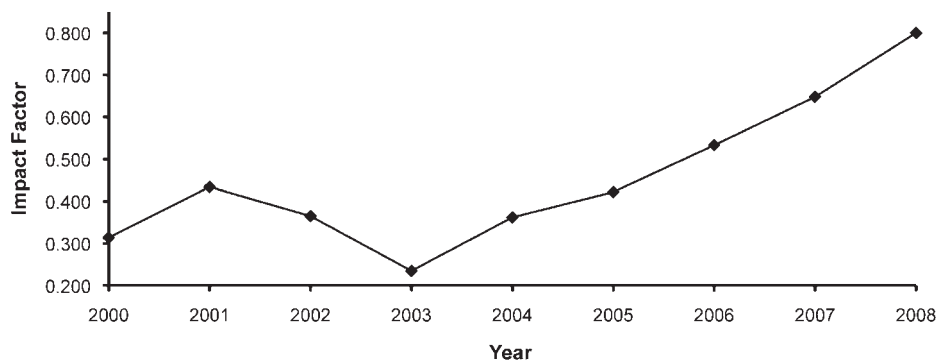


Fig. 1. Impact factor of the Raffles Bulletin of Zoology from the year 2000 to 2008.

All in all, with the current global emphasis on biodiversity and environment, we do not see the *Bulletin*'s role diminishing. We expect it to grow even further. Heok Hui will have his job cut out for him, as he now takes the journal to new vistas, and perhaps add his own mark to a strong history and tradition.

**Peter K. L. Ng**  
Editor-in-Chief