

## Preface

It is our great pleasure to publish articles in a special issue of the Eurasian Journal of Forest Research (EJFR). The papers published here were presented at the Core-to-Core symposium held at the Far Eastern State Agricultural University (FEUAU), Blagoveshchensk, Amur, Russia as well as contributed papers. The objective of this symposium was to exchange our scientific research findings and discuss future research plans. With this view, we organized this international symposium on “Regeneration and dynamics of mixed conifer broad-leaved forests in East Asia after natural and man-made disturbances” during October 12-14, 2006 held at the FEUAU, Amur, Far East Russia.

A joint research exchange program entitled “The Core-to-Core Program for up-scaling the evaluation of the symptoms of environmental changes in Siberian region (FY 2005-2006)” was conducted by Hokkaido University, Japan and Martin Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg, Germany, with the financial support from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS). After the two years of research activities, we were able to expand and share our progress in cooperative research together with the V.N. Sukachev Institute of Forest, Institute for Biological Problems of Cryolithozone, Permafrost Institute and Institute of Soil Science and Agro-Chemistry, and Siberian Branch of Russian Academy of Science. We were able to expand the international network and establish excellent collaboration among the scientists.

At this international symposium, we had more than 60 participants including scientists from Germany, Korea, Russia, and Japan, and presented 26 reports including 12 posters to discuss current research results and plans, and to establish further cooperation. In this special issue of EJFR, we published 18 reports related to the CTC project to the topics of global change and conservation of the forest ecosystem under a changing environment. We hope that this special issue will result in the exploration of new horizons in Siberian research and expand the network of researchers in many countries.

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to Prof. Ivan V. Bumbar, president of the Far Eastern State Agricultural University (FESAU), Prof. Pavel V. Tikhonchuk (vice president of FESAU), Dr. Yury P. Nemylostiv (the international affairs in FESAU), Mr. M. Kobayashi (c/o Soil Science Laboratory of FESAU on leave from Hokkaido University), J&B Co. Ltd. and many collaborators for their efforts in ensuring the success of this international symposium. We wish to extend our sincere thanks to those who attended the symposium and contributed their papers to this special issue. Moreover, we thank all of the reviewers and the staff of Information and Technology office of the Hokkaido University Forests for their great efforts in reviewing and editing this special issue of EJFR for publication.

This special issue is published by the partial support of the JSPS “Core-to-Core Program-Integrated Action Initiative- (Project No.17001)”. We greatly appreciate their contribution.

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March 30, 2007