

## Preface

### Asian Forum for Polar Sciences

The Asian Forum for Polar Sciences (AFoPS) is a 14-year-old non-governmental organization with its current six members representing national Antarctic/polar research institutions – China, Japan, Republic of Korea, India, Malaysia and Thailand. There are strong ties and collaboration among AFoPS member countries, especially in the aspect of science.

In order to increase the visibility of Asian polar research, the members of AFoPS have agreed to produce joint publications in the form of special issues in academic journals. This has come to fruition in the form of two previous AFoPS special issues, *Advances in Polar Science* (December 2013) and *Polar Science* (December 2015). As the members agreed to seek another opportunity, Malaysia volunteered to lead the publication to publish the third special issue of AFoPS research activities. This special section has the support from the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), India and the National Antarctic Research Center (NARC), Malaysia. This Special Section has ten peer-reviewed papers encompassing disciplines of life, physical and atmospheric sciences of the polar regions. The contributors are from AFoPS member countries, namely China, Malaysia, India and Republic of Korea.

These are some of the highlights of four papers on physical and atmospheric sciences. Kim *et al.* (page 1669) have described the marine heat flow measurements in the subsea permafrost degradation area of the eastern Mackenzie Trough, Canadian Beaufort Sea. Kim *et al.* (page 1674) report from the Korean Antarctic research base, Jang Bogo Station the data collected from Fabry–Perot interferometer (FPI) and vertical incidence pulsed ionospheric radar (VIPIR) for observations of neutral atmosphere and ionosphere in the polar region. Mahesh *et al.* (page 1679) look at the palaeolimnological record from a lake in Larsemann Hills (Antarctica) and utilized

carbon and nitrogen isotopes along with diatom community to deduce that the basin was earlier under marine regime and became isolated as a result of glacial isostatic uplift after 4.7 ky BP. Sheeba *et al.* (page 1684) document the mechanism for strong wind events at the McMurdo/Scott Base on the Ross Ice Shelf, Antarctica utilizing *in situ* observations, satellite imagery and Antarctic mesoscale prediction system model.

On the biological sciences sections, there are six papers. Sinha *et al.* (page 1690) in their article attribute the bacterioplankton community variability change in the phytoplankton composition indicating a significant coupling between these two groups in Kongsfjorden waters during June to October 2012. Thomas *et al.* (page 1695) present the draft genome sequence of a novel actinobacterium from the family Intrasporangiaceae from Signy Island Antarctica. Lim *et al.* (page 1697) describe the effects of field warming on high Arctic soil bacterial community. Chua *et al.* (page 1702) document the bacterial communities of King George and Deception Islands Antarctica. Meanwhile, Teoh *et al.* (page 1706) describe the genome sequences of two cold-adapted *Cryobacterium* spp. Finally, Luo *et al.* (page 1709) report the microbial eukaryotic diversity with special focus on picoprasinophytes under the sea ice of the Central Arctic Ocean in summer.

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