

Handing over of the Editorship

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On the 1st of January 2008 the editorship of the journal *Extremophiles* will be transferred from Professor Koki Horikoshi, Director General of Extremobiosphere at the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC), to me. My colleague Koki Horikoshi, who is the founder of this journal, has successfully led the journal during more than 11 years. His enthusiasm and devotion to science has provided the journal with a strong reputation

and made it a leading journal covering one of the most exciting fields of research in microbiology.

The huge achievements made by the scientific community to unravel the mechanisms involved in adapting microorganisms to extreme environments have been documented in numerous publications of *Extremophiles*.

It gives me great pleasure to continue the successful work of Professor Horikoshi and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Koki Horikoshi and his team for their enormous dedication to make this journal a successful one.

The managing editors Arnold Driesen, Li Huang, Tadahshi Matsunaga, Frank Robb and I will do our best to keep the journal at this high scientific standard and to ensure rapid reviewing of contributions. It is our goal to see the impact factor of the journal increase. In this respect we need the support of our authors as well as the precious work of our evaluators, whose contributions and support are highly appreciated.

I sincerely hope that all contributors to *Extremophiles* will continue their cooperation with the new team in the same positive way they have done with Professor Koki Horikoshi.

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