

## PREFACE

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The First Asian Dendrochronological Conference was held in Bangkok, Thailand, on September 9–15, 2007. This conference was organized by the Asian Dendrochronology Association (ADA) and hosted by the Faculty of Environmental and Resource Studies, Mahidol University, Thailand. The purpose of the conference was to promote tree-ring research and education in Asia and enhance communication among dendrochronologists in and beyond Asian countries. Almost 100 tree-ring researchers and students, not only from Asian countries but also from around the world, attended the conference and shared their experience and knowledge. This conference would not have been successful without the financial support from the Faculty of Environmental and Resource Studies at Mahidol University, Thai Ministry of Education, PAGES (Past Global Change: <http://www.pages-igbp.org>), Banpu Co. Ltd., National Research Council Thailand (NRCT) and Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT).

This special issue contains nine articles selected from the presentations at the conference. All the articles were peer-reviewed following the standards of IAWA Journal. These articles cover a broad area of tree-ring research, ranging from cambial activity, stable isotope analysis, archeological dating, review of past studies, dendroclimatic studies on the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau, to tropical tree-ring analyses.

IAWA has a long-standing tradition of publishing proceedings of symposia and workshops on tree-ring research, with special issues on "Growth Rings in Tropical Trees" edited by Baas & Vetter (1989), on "Growth Periodicity in Tropical Trees" (edited by Eckstein, Sass & Baas 1995), and on "Dendrochronology in Monsoon Asia" (edited by Eckstein & Baas 1999). The latter two issues are still commercially available from the IAWA Office in Leiden.

However, the number of publications on tropical and subtropical zones is still quite limited. We do hope that with the serious impact of climate change on biodiversity, forest ecosystems and the crucial function of tropical trees as a carbon sink, tropical tree-ring research will receive the highest priority. We also hope that this special IAWA Journal issue on Tree-Ring Research in Asia will be useful and interesting for students, scientists and policy makers alike.

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