

Editorial

The New Year 2007 heralds a new phase for this journal. The **Indian Academy of Sciences**, which has been publishing this journal since 1934, first as Proceedings of the Indian Academy of Sciences (Earth & Planetary Sciences) and then since 2005 as **Journal of Earth System Science (JESS)**, has entered into an agreement with **Springer** (www.springer.com) to co-publish the journal. The agreement brings three major changes to the journal.

First, Springer will distribute the journal outside India. All queries regarding international subscription can be made to subscriptions@springer.de. Subscriptions within India will continue to be handled by the Circulation Department of the Academy (see inside cover of the journal).

Second, the agreement makes it possible to provide access to the journal's content world-wide in an on-line full-text database on SpringerLink (www.springerlink.com). Full and free access to the journal will continue to be available world-wide on the website of the Indian Academy of Sciences (www.ias.ac.in/jess).

Third, and most important for our authors and reviewers, submission of manuscripts and the process associated with their review will be on-line starting 15 February 2007. Authors will be able to submit a manuscript and check on its progress by logging on to Editorial Manager (<http://jess.edmgr.com/>). Though we will honour submissions via email for some more time, authors are expected to switch to the more convenient Editorial Manager. To make the transition easy for authors, they are allowed to upload their PDF file,

which is now being sent by email to the editorial office. Hard-copy submissions are discouraged, but we will continue to assist authors who do not have access to the Internet. Those who submit hard copies, however, will need to be prepared to face delays: users of Editorial Manager would benefit from faster turnaround of manuscripts.

With these three changes, this journal's reach is now truly global. With Editorial Manager, authors have access to one of the best available technologies for handling manuscripts. With Springer-Link, articles published in JESS are part of one of the world's leading interactive databases providing a central, keyword-searchable access point for researchers and scientists. Open Access is still guaranteed on the Academy's website. Authors and readers can thus have the best of both worlds.

We are grateful to our authors for doubling annual submissions to this journal over the last few years. It justifies our belief that this journal is now an attractive platform for publishing articles in the emerging multi-disciplinary field of Earth System Science. We sincerely hope that the new features add to the existing ones — an Open Access Journal offering free Internet access, no page charges, a liberal policy towards figures in colour, fifty reprints free, and six issues a year — to make the journal even more attractive.

This recent increase in submissions has, however, been largely from within India. With the switch to an Internet-based publishing process liberating the journal from the shackles of geography, we look forward to a more global author list.

Editors