

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

After my return to Colombia in early 2005 and becoming a new member of the large family at Universidad Nacional in 2006, I was appointed editor of Earth Sciences Research Journal (ESRJ) by the Research Group in Geophysics at the Geosciences Department, and accepted the challenge from my colleague, professor Luis A. Montes, to help in strengthening the journal that he courageously edited for various years.

With no previous experience in journal editing (other than personal observations from some papers that I have lead to publication), I decided that my first move was to hire the best editorial assitant available. Second, a new internet portal needed to be designed, and third, I thought a data base of reviewers would be nice to have. My wife, Indira Zuluaga volunteered (and was later hired) to help in the editing the journal and besides she was the only one willing to bear with me and my demanding way of being a Chief Editor. We constructed a new web page for the journal:

(http://www.geociencias.unal.edu.co/ESRJ_eng.htm) and included all information we imagined authors, reviewers, and the general public could need. Finally, I contacted a number of experts in various areas of Earth Sciences and requested their help to review manuscripts, so with time a data base of referees was built (this is a list which fortunately keeps growing).

In this issue we print a collection of five papers that present results from research and experiments in Seismology, Engineering Seismology, Ecology, and Climatology. A. Alfaro shows his results on the application of a heuristic method for estimation of velocity structure for S-waves and compares his findings with existing PS-logging data. Lednická and colleagues present a case study on the evaluation of the technical seismicity effects on buildings and suggest the use of the maps of opinions to asses the effect of shaking on infrastructures in Czech Republic. Lushnikov and colleagues experimented with the use of flotation technology in the cleaning of water bodies contaminated with oil in Komi Republic (Northern Russia). Eppelbaum and colleagues present results on the study of ground surface temperature histories from borehole data in Europe, Asia, and North America, and derive models for warming rates in the 20th century. Finally, Tavera and colleagues used local earthquake data to infer some relevant features for the geometry of the subduction of Nazca plate in northwestern Perú. The issue is complemented by a letter to the Editor from Vargas and colleagues, commenting on the joint meeting on Earth Sciences in Latin American and the Caribbean held in Bogotá in August 2006. We anticipate that a supplement to ESRJ will be published with all abstracts accepted, and that a wealth of papers will be available for publication in upcoming issues.

The set of papers included in this issue of ESRJ gives indication of the regional acceptance and wide scope of our growing journal. We invite scientists from around the world to submit their works to *Earth Sciences Research Journal*. I thank the Editorial Board, UNIBIBLOS, and the College of Sciences at Universidad Nacional de Colombia for their continued support.

John J. Sánchez