

## Editorial

Year 2010 has seen a smooth transition from the former Editorial direction to the new team of Editors. A new cover has been drawn and a new style of publication has been introduced, which includes the editorial responsibility at the end of each published paper. A new on-line submission system has been introduced, so that authors can now submit manuscripts directly to the Editorial office avoiding correspondence via regular mail. Authors can also track their manuscripts through their personal account, and the time scheduled for each action is checked automatically by the system. This change has brought to a systematic and significant reduction of time in providing the final evaluation of manuscripts. Furthermore, the on-line manuscript management permits each Associate Editor to track the efficiency of the peer reviewers, alerting for their lack of promptness in view of future assignments.

In this new manuscript evaluation procedure the Editor in Chief assigns the submission to one of the Associate Editors on the basis of his/her scientific expertise. The Associate Editor assumes the editorial responsibility for the assigned manuscript, selects at least two peer-reviewers, and formulates the final evaluation. The Editor in Chief supervises the correctness of the evaluation procedure, and eventually commits the decision.

The present issue of the Journal is the first one including exclusively papers submitted to – and evaluated by – the new team of Editors, with articles spanning all fields of geosciences. In addition, this issue introduces the new section *Frontiers in Geosciences*. Associate Editor Claudio Faccenna is leading the team committed to invite colleagues to submit manuscripts on hot topics in geology and geosciences. It will appear regularly in the opening section of each new volume. Manuscripts included in *Frontiers in Geosciences* follow the regular evaluation procedure described above.

Beginning this year, the *Italian Journal of Geosciences* will join the Geoscience World website. Geo-scientists in any part of the World will gain access to the metadata and possibly to the articles included in the journal using the search tools of the GeoRef system (e.g., authors, year, key-words, etc.).

On the technical side, year 2011 will represent the beginning for the corrected proof advanced publication on the journal website contemporary to the assignment of the final *doi*. It is expected that this procedure will meet the satisfaction of authors who will have their contribution paginated and published (so officially referenced) in advance with respect to the printed issue. This will maximize exposure time of the paper and facilitate diffusion of scientific information.

The Editorial Board wishes to use this opportunity to thank all the persons and institutions that contributed to the success of the journal renewal. Authors and readers in the first place, for their confidence and continued support; the peer reviewers and, last but not least, Drs. Alessandro Zuccari and Fabio Massimo Petti from the Editorial office and the Italian Geological Society who made an enormous effort to support all the novelty introduced.

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