

From the Editors

During the year 2001, we have been fortunate to stand witness to two very important events related to scientific and technical cooperation between Japan and Vietnam in the area of Geoinformatics. The first was the launching of the Japan-Vietnam Geoinformatics Consortium (JVGC) through the signing of a Joint Research Protocol on 20th November, 2001. The second was the decision of the JVGC to organize an International Symposium on Geoinformatics in Hanoi during the year 2002.

The establishment of JVGC and the organization of GIS-IDEAS are both based on the spirit of mutual cooperation and openness. We hope that the activities of JVGC and the deliberations of the GIS-IDEAS will provide ample opportunity for sharing of knowledge and valuable experiences and help promote collaborations and scientific exchanges between scientists and engineers of Vietnam and Japan.

We are indeed gratified with the overwhelming support and goodwill that JVGC and GIS-IDEAS has received from the international scientific community. We hope that JVGC will grow from strength to strength and prove worthy of the trust and patronage of our peers.

We would like to sincerely acknowledge the encouragements and support that we have received in abundance thus far. We would like to particularly thank Dr. Nghiem Vu Khai and Prof. Takashi Fujita, Co-Chairperson, JVGC for their encouragements and for being a strong motivating force behind the launch of JVGC and the organization of GIS-IDEAS. We offer our special thanks to the members of the JVGC Advisory Committee for their support and cooperation.

The Proceedings of GIS-IDEAS has been released as the JVGC Technical Document No. 1. We thank all the contributors for presenting papers of high caliber. We would also like to record our sincere gratitude to the members of Scientific Advisory Committee and Local Organizing Committee of GIS-IDEAS for their cooperation and unstinting support. We express our deepest thanks to all the sponsors of GIS-IDEAS, without their support organizing GIS-IDEAS would not be possible.

We sincerely hope that the GIS-IDEAS Symposium would stimulate many innovative ideas and foster new collaborations in Geoinformatics. We seek your continued support and cooperation.

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