

PREFACE

"PEDOSPHERE", a quarterly journal of soil science, is making its debut with unfolding of the year 1991, under the co-sponsorship of the Institute of Soil Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and the Laboratory of Material Cycling in Pedosphere, Chinese Academy of Sciences. Published by the Science Press, Beijing and available for subscription in both China and other parts of the world, it is the first foreign language academic journal on soil science ever published in China, which will surely provide a new forum for soil scientists, particularly Chinese soil scientists, to introduce their works and new findings.

The study on soil science is directly related not only to the improvement of agricultural, forestry and animal husbandry productions, but to the protection and improvement of the environment for human survival. Today the swelling population, insufficient supply of food and deterioration of environment are the three major problems the mankind is confronted with. The world's demands for food and fibre are growing with the rapid expansion of the population, whereas the world's farmlands are diminishing with the development of industry, communications, mining, cities and towns as well, which, hence, requires that sufficient food be produced on the limited farmlands to meet the demands of the ever growing population. This is an extremely arduous and imminent task in front of the soil science.

Due to production and living activities of the mankind, excess organic matter, inorganic chemical materials and some wastes go into the soil and then transfer to the water system and organisms causing harms to human health; gases, such as CO_2 , CH_4 and N_2O , escaping from the soil pollute the atmosphere, which is looming as a serious environmental problem threatening the globe. Therefore, how to work out in line with the objective laws of material cycling the strategy and tactics that will not only maximize productions, but also protect the soil resources and the living environment of the mankind from deteriorating is another arduous and imminent task. To fulfil the two tasks successfully, it requires concerted efforts of soil scientists all over the world in cooperation to push forward soil science to a new stage.

As an important link in promoting development of sciences, academic exchanges contribute greatly to the enhancement of cooperations between scientists. Though Chinese soil scientists have been doing it fruitfully through mutual visits by scholars and international symposia or conferences, their works are far from being efficiently and timely introduced to their foreign colleagues due to language barriers. Publication of "PEDOSPHERE" is building a bridge to further facilitate academic interflows between scientists in China and other countries.

It is our hope that “PEDOSPHERE” will win the support of the soil scientists both at home and abroad and will be able to play an active role in strengthening the academic interflows between Chinese and foreign soil scientists and to contribute its part to the advance of soil science.

**Prof. Zhao Qiguo
Director of ISSAS
Chief of LMCP**