

Presently, the environment of Southeast Asia is changing drastically day by day, and documentation of the present status and distribution of living organisms in a scientifically proper manner is probably one of the most urgent and important missions facing scientists in this region. Apparently, not only tremendous number of organisms are still left undescribed in Southeast Asia, but there are also many with poorly known distributional ranges because of a lack of reliable records supported by good quality description with voucher materials. This is even true for large animals which people generally believe are scientifically relatively well-known and studied, as is evident from papers in this issue. At the same time, many alien species are being introduced to environments of the region from captivity. This fact makes the situation more complicated and urgent. We try to maintain the NHBSS as a journal that publishes good quality distributional records of organisms to relieve the situation, and to fill what has been recently called in the field of biogeography “Wallacean shortholes” (the paucity of information on the geography of nature, named after one of the founders of biogeography, Alfred Russel Wallace).

From this volume, we start new categories (sections) of articles, “conservation news and events” related to conservation of nature in southeast Asia, and “reviews” covering particular subjects, fields or topics, including summaries of the present status, future perspectives and problems to be solved. One of the main purposes of this section is to provide general knowledge and background on particular subjects, fields or topics related to nature of interest to readers. We believe that such articles will be useful for people who are interested in science of the region, including young students and educated laymen as well as scientists. We hope that you will utilize these new sections of the NHBSS as a places to publish results of your studies in the most effective and suitable format.

Another good piece of news is that, since the submission rate of manuscripts to the Bulletin is recovering, we have decided to publish NHBSS biannually (two issues per year) as we did previously, from the next volume (year). Finally, as many of you already know, now, all articles of recently published NHBSS (so far Vol. 57 and this volume) can be downloaded from the website of the journal (http://www.siam-society.org/pub_NHB/nhb_index.html) as PDF files free of charge. PDF files of all issues of NHBSS (from Vol. 1 to present) will also be available on line free of charge soon, since we are completing the process of digitizing all issues.

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Honorary Editor

