Preface

The Asia-Pacific region has special landscape types and long land use history with big population. The area now faces to a risk of landscape destruction due to the rapid economic growth. Another major character of the area is its linguistic variety, because numerous non-resemblant tongues including Indian, Chinese, Japanese, etc. exist. One sometimes finds it difficult to translate the terms in the landscape ecology from one language to another, because of the conceptual differences deriving from various cultural backgrounds.

In aiming at overcoming the above mentioned issues, IALE-China and IALE-Japan chapters organized the international conference on landscape ecology of Asia and Pacific region in Shenyang, China in October 5—7, 1998. The conference was supported by the International Association for Landscape Ecology (IALE). About 80 papers were presented and a heated discussion was made among 100 participants from 13 countries. It was indeed an important opportunity for the landscape ecological issues which prospective will surely be diversified to multi-directions. Major contributions made by this conference were proposals for sustainable management of landscape currently under the severe exploitation, and recognition of the unique landscape system which was far from that in other regions.

After the successful closing of the meeting, we selected 22 articles from conference papers as special issue of Journal of Environmental Sciences, and this was approved by the ordinary review system. These articles involve the concept, principle, methodology and application of landscape ecology. We feel our great honor to have this collection of these academic achievements published for exchange and contribute to the 5th World Congress of the International Association for Landscape Ecology, July 29—August 3, 1999, Snowmass Village, Colorado, USA.

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