

Foreword



Professor Akio Morishima

*Chair of the Board of Directors, President
Institute for Global Environmental Strategies*

It is my great pleasure to present the inaugural issue of the *International Review for Environmental Strategies (IRES)*, published by the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES). Founded in March 1998, IGES has the challenging mission of conducting practical strategic research on sustainable development around the world. Its focus is mainly on the Asia-Pacific region, where IGES is located. Its research emphasizes not only studying theoretical frameworks for sustainable development, but also developing strategies that actualize sustainable development. As a research institute for practical policies, IGES aims at performing the functions of training, information exchange and dissemination as well as research. Through its efforts, IGES strives to become a leading international organization on global environmental issues. One of the essential roles of IGES is to disseminate information to the world about the results of strategically oriented environmental research—both its own research and that of other researchers.

With this role in mind, IGES decided to establish a peer-reviewed, biannual journal, *IRES*, dedicated towards publishing original, high-quality papers that use multidisciplinary, integrated approaches to address sustainable development. In doing so, IGES hopes to promote and facilitate dialogues about environmental strategies among stakeholders. Because of this emphasis on stakeholders, the target audience of *IRES* includes not only researchers but also policymakers, members of non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders.

To provide a wide range of information useful for developing environmental strategies, *IRES* will publish, in addition to research articles and notes, reports of latest developments in environmental policies and strategies in the Asia-Pacific region. All of its submissions for research articles and notes will be reviewed by at least two peer reviewers. Because *IRES* is intended to be a forum for dialogue about environmental strategies, these submissions will be substantively reviewed in terms of quality and util-

ity, rather than for language proficiency. With this in mind, the editorial processes of *IREES* will be geared towards facilitating communication for authors whose first languages are not English, as well as native-English authors.

This inaugural issue contains special contributions from international members of the Editorial Board of *IREES*. It is my belief that these contributions will help readers understand the aims and scope of the *IREES*. In addition, although the time constraints involved with publishing a first issue did not allow us to recruit external papers, many researchers from IGES generously contributed papers for this issue. Their papers introduce the results of their research and cover a broad range of topics: from Japanese approaches to environmental management, to a comparative study of urban environment in East Asia, to local forest management in Indonesia.

I hope all our readers will find this journal interesting. We welcome any comments on the journal. I am also pleased to announce that the second volume of *IREES* is scheduled to be published in summer 2001. I invite researchers, policymakers and other stakeholders to contribute papers that relate to developing effective environmental policies for sustainable development.

Lastly, I appreciate the immense efforts made by the editorial board members, reviewers and editing staff—Stephanie Tai and Emika Yoshitaki—whose dedicated work made this journal possible.

