

Letter from the Chief Editor

This is it. The first edition of the 20th volume of the Asia Pacific Journal of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology is online. This edition marks the countdown to the end of the second decade in publication after the launch of the first edition of the APJMBB in December of 1999. It is certainly a significant milestone for us and a signal that in our third decade we are set to transform into the next exciting phase of the journal. Look out readers for the final edition of this year which will be a special celebratory issue to mark our 20 years of publication and an announcement which we believe will be a significant one for our loyal readers, editors, reviewers and of course contributors.

To mark this milestone we have brought back for you the landmark editorial of the first edition and a peek at its extensive content (pp 5-6). The inaugural piece was written by the founding editor Dr Tikki Pang, currently Director, Research Policy & Cooperation and Senior Policy Adviser, Innovation, Information, Evidence & Research, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland (see a brief biography on pp 3-4) and editorial board members Dr Koh Chong Lek (now at NTU Singapore) and Dr Edmundo Calva (Instituto de Biotecnología de la UNAM). It was when Tikki was Professor of Biomedical Sciences at University of Malaya that he and fellow members of the MSMBB conceived of the bold idea to launch a regional journal highlighting the then nascent advances in molecular biology and Biotechnology in the region. The editorial speaks of the needs of the time and one that we will continue to champion, that is to provide a platform for disseminating results of research and technological advancements in these fields.

The region continues to embrace the advances and the papers in this issue 20(1) are testament to the wide applications in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology that the journal continues to promote. And to paraphrase loosely the aptly said words of first edition; that the success of this endeavour certainly rests on the *support* and *cooperation* of its scientists but more importantly on a collective *conviction* and *belief* that good science is truly global.

With best wishes

Rofina Yasmin Othman, PhD
Chief Editor,
Asia Pacific Journal of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology