



## Preface

Urban and regional air pollution caused by  $PM_{2.5}$  and other pollutants is a major issue worldwide. Air pollution is especially serious in Asia's developing countries. Since 2013, when severe air pollution occurred around Beijing, long-range transboundary  $PM_{2.5}$  air pollution has become a public concern in Japan. Much research on  $PM_{2.5}$  pollution has been conducted in Japan since then. On the other hand, Asia's developing countries face more severe air pollution than Japan.  $PM_{2.5}$  pollution poses not only a major health risk but also impacts ecosystems and influences regional-scale climate change.

This special issue provides comprehensive information on recent progress in  $PM_{2.5}$  research projects in Japan as well as  $PM_{2.5}$  pollution and approaches toward its mitigation in Asia. Part 1 provides a review of  $PM_{2.5}$  pollution research conducted under the Environment Research and Technology Development Fund (ERTDF) of the Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ), and a discussion of future issues in  $PM_{2.5}$  pollution policy needing research. In Part 2, experts in various Asian countries give an overview of the current status of  $PM_{2.5}$  pollution and its mitigation in their respective countries. In addition, future directions toward ameliorating that pollution are discussed.

Many articles have been provided by researchers in Japan and experts in East and Southeast Asia. We are profoundly grateful for their contribution of valuable scientific knowledge toward clean air and blue skies, and strongly hope that this information will prove useful in actions toward  $PM_{2.5}$  mitigation in Asia.

### **Guest Editors**

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