



## Preface

Kyrgyzstan spearheaded the International Year of Mountains (IYM) 2002 initiative, hosting the Global Mountain Summit in Bishkek that year. From Japan, Fumiko Nakao and Teiji Watanabe attended the summit. Two decades later, an international symposium on mountains was held in Kurobe City, Japan, on December 10 and 11, 2022. Organized by the Mountain Day Foundation and chaired by Kazuo Mizushima, professor emeritus of Nihon University, the symposium celebrated IYM Plus 20 and the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development 2022. This brought together participants who contributed 11 papers to this special issue. These papers represent the content presented at the symposium, expanded with additional writings. This special issue thus follows the issue on mountains published by *Global Environmental Research* in 2005, Vol. 6 No. 1, entitled “Global Warming and Sustainable Use of Mountain Resources in Asia.”

In Japan, various activities were undertaken during IYM 2002 that led similar activities to continue in subsequent years. One of the most representative of these activities was the establishment of Japan’s Mountain Day. Mountaineers’ groups, researchers, national and local governments, private organizations and others worked together to create Mountain Day, then supported diet members’ efforts to designate it as a national holiday. Among the key figures, Gota Isono of the Japan Mountain Guides Association played a crucial role in establishing the holiday. Following his death, his will gave support and encouragement for the current activities of the Mountain Day Foundation.

The International Year of Mountains (IYM)+30 will be celebrated in 2032, and post-SDG activities will be required that year. Numerous tasks must be accomplished by then. There have reportedly been calls to establish a Global Mountain University with recognition from the United Nations and initiatives by Kyrgyzstan. As international efforts are made to address the environmental issues of mountainous areas, Japan must step up its domestic and international efforts more than ever before to resolve those environmental problems. The editors and authors of this special issue hope that the papers herein will draw attention to mountain issues that need addressing.

### Postscript

Professor Kazuo Mizushima, who chaired the IYM Plus 20 Symposium in Kurobe in December 2022, passed away in March 2024, just before this special issue finished editing and went to print. Without his leadership, the symposium would never have been realized. We would like to express our special heartfelt thanks for his great contributions to mountain agriculture and the people living in the mountains, especially in Kurobe (Tateyama) and northern Pakistan. We extend our sincere condolences to his family.

### **Guest Editor**

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### **Chairperson**

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