

Editorial 2009

Dear Readers, Authors and Referees.

Starting 1 January 2009, Annales Geophysicae is undertaking a major change: the journal is becoming a fully open-access journal. Until now, the journal was partly open-access to readers, i.e. all publications freely accessible after one year. The number of institutional subscriptions allowed the journal to have a policy of a free of charge publication for the authors. Since several years, EGU has moved to a policy of a complete open access for all its journals, i.e. free immediate access to publications, and page charge to authors. This policy is supported by many European scientific institutions: some of them have already signed an agreement with EGU stating that they will pay charges for the publications of their scientists directly to EGU. Consequently to this policy, our journal is constantly losing its institutional subscriptions and cannot afford its publication expenses anymore. This is the reason why, since 1 January 2009, the authors have to pay a moderate page charge for the publication of their work. We are concerned that some scientists, especially from developing countries, may not be able to pay; for these, Annales obtained from EGU 1000 free pages per year. The authors can ask the editors to obtain the publication of their work free of charge; I will take the decision case by case.

During the Publication Committee meeting it was also decided that Annales will stop the “Oceans and Air-Sea-Ice interactions” section starting 1 January 2009. This section has always been very marginal, publishing a very small number of papers while other EGU journals are devoted to this item. I warmly thank Sergey Gulev for his very efficient work as the Editor of this section.

I very much hope that these fundamental changes will not affect the continuing development of Annales.

Now, I would like to give special thanks to Ulf-Peter Hoppe who was the Editor of the “Middle and Upper Atmosphere” section for the last 7 years. He made a huge job increasing the quality of the publications. I am grateful to him for his very fruitful collaboration in conducting this section and also for his constancy in improving our journal, the COSIS system and our relations with authors and referees. He is replaced by Christoph Jacobi. Thanks to him for accepting the editorial responsibilities.

Finally I am grateful to all people of the Editorial Board, the Editors, Yannis Daglis, Mike Pinnock, Fabio D’Andrea, Christoph Jacobi, Bob Forsyth, Kirstie Kauristie, Rumi Nakamura, the Editorial Executive, Sylviane Perret, the Copernicus Publications Editorial Support, Natascha Töpfer and Anne Klingner, and the EGU publication production office for their work. My best wishes for a Happy New Year 2009!

Wlodek Kofman
Editor-in-Chief