



## EDITORIAL

In following up the IFFN issue No. 39 (2010) in which we published two essays by the environmental and fire historian Stephen J. Pyne the Global Fire Monitoring Center is proud to present an essay authored by a former staff of GFMC – Jessica O'Brien. "Blazing a Trail" reviews the global physical, ecological and social drivers of landscape fire in an era of unprecedented global change. The essay provides a comprehensive analysis of the role fire in the Earth System, spanning from prehistoric, evolutionary times to the late Anthropocene and beyond.

The Regional and Country Reports of this issue are bringing us back to the realities, needs and options for response in fire management. In the Asia-Pacific region priorities are increasingly given to fire management approaches by involving and challenging local communities to take responsibility in local, participatory fire management. Under the leadership of the UNISDR Regional South Asia Wildland Fire Network Nepal hosted the "Regional Pan-Asia / Pacific Consultation on Building Advanced National and Regional Capacities in Integrated Fire Management based on Participatory Involvement of Local Communities" and could demonstrate its advances in expanding principles of community-based forest management to include fire management.

Two reports about consultations in fire management from the Eastern Mediterranean – from the Aegean Sea of Greece and from Israel – reveal the problems that go along with demographic and land-use changes, regional climate change and changing fire regimes – with severe impacts of fire on ecosystems and society.

Last not least – the report from the 2011 fires season in the Russian Federation reveals the challenges for managing fires in a country that owns the largest forest resources in the world, which are becoming increasingly vulnerable to changes of climate and fire regimes.

Enjoy reading these articles!

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