Editorial
Message From the New Editor-in-Chief

I T IS A great honor and privilege for me to have the opportunity to serve the IEEE JOURNAL OF SELECTED TOPICS IN APPLIED EARTH OBSERVATIONS AND REMOTE SENSING (J-STARS) in the capacity of Editor-in-Chief. The Administrative Committee (AdCom) of the IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society (GRSS) has entrusted in me the responsibility to maintain the highest standards of scientific and technical excellence of this very important GRSS journal, and I am very pleased and honored to accept this responsibility with great enthusiasm and sense of commitment.

We live in an era in which earth sciences and remote sensing are playing a pivotal role in terms of social relevance and impact. The spatial, spectral, and temporal resolutions of earth observation instruments are ever increasing, and the availability of improved geoscience and remote sensing instruments, tools, and datasets has rapidly introduced new processing challenges. The need of our society for a clear understanding of how the earth system operates and evolves has never been greater, and the science and engineering of remote sensing is one of the cornerstones of modern earth system science. It is our duty as geoscience and remote sensing researchers to advance the discipline with contributions of the highest quality, as it has been the tradition of J-STARS. At the same time, it is my duty and responsibility as J-STARS Editor-in-Chief to ensure that those outstanding advances are properly reported to our research community and to a much larger community of end users, policy makers, and others, with accuracy, timeliness, and integrity.

J-STARS was recently flipped to a fully open-access journal, and with the 2021 volume it is entering its 14th year. The first issue of the journal was published in 2008, with a total of 284 pages in this first volume. The journal published four issues per year until 2012, in which six issues were published (as in 2013), and then the journal published 12 issues per year from 2014 to 2019. From 2020, the journal became a full open-access one, and the 2020 volume of J-STARS published a total of 6532 pages. This gives an idea of the exponential growth of the journal since its creation.

J-STARS is devoted to current issues and techniques in applied remote and *in situ* sensing, their integration, and applied modeling and information creation for understanding the earth. Applications are for the earth, oceans, and atmosphere. Topics can include observations, derived information such as forecast data, simulated information, data assimilation, and earth information techniques to address science and engineering issues of the earth system. The technical content of papers must be both new and significant. Today, J-STARS is one of the most prestigious and internationally acclaimed journals in the field of geoscience and remote sensing, and a premier open-access publication in the applications of remote sensing to earth observation.

This was possible thanks to the leadership of past Editors-in-Chief of J-STARS that have brought the journal to outstanding levels of scientific excellence. My immediate predecessor, Qian (Jenny) Du, deserves enormous thanks for all the time and effort she has given to our society over the past five years. She has also been a wonderful mentor during my interim period, and I am extremely grateful to her for her outstanding training and advice. The line of Editors-in-Chief before Jenny was equally as competent and dedicated, and I would like to particularly thank Jocelyn Chanussot for all his outstanding support and wonderful advice regarding editorial and many other matters.

I would also like to take this opportunity to gratefully thank the Associate Editors of J-STARS for their outstanding commitment and dedication to the journal. J-STARS currently has a pool of 50 dedicated Associate Editors from prestigious organizations worldwide, assisting with many different topics. Anonymous peer reviewing is one of the cornerstones of vigorous advancement in science and engineering research, but it is also often one of the most underappreciated of the many requests and demands made of subject experts. It is for this reason that GRSS is extremely grateful to anonymous reviewers for their time, energy, and dedication to our journals.

Authors who are submitting their work are also gratefully acknowledged for relying on J-STARS as a venue for the publication of their most relevant results. The number of submissions to J-STARS is ever increasing, with a total of 1657 papers (excluding revisions) newly submitted to the journal in 2020. This gives an idea of the rapid expansion of the journal in our community. The outstanding technical support provided by Joyce Arnold and AndreAnna McLean at IEEE is essential for the efficient management of manuscripts submitted to the journal.

Last but not least, I would like to gratefully thank Bill Emery (GRSS Vice-President of Publications) for his outstanding advice regarding editorial and other matters, and also for playing a pivotal role in the flip of J-STARS to a fully open-access journal.

I very much welcome my term as J-STARS Editor-in-Chief. I am indebted to GRSS for entrusting in me this responsibility and I look forward to continue working with full commitment and dedication to this task in order to maintain the outstanding level and impact of J-STARS in our community.

JUN LI, *Editor-in-Chief*
School of Geography and Planning
Sun Yat-sen University
510275 Guangzhou, China
lijun48@mail.sysu.edu.cn

Jun Li (Fellow, IEEE) received the B.S. degree in geographic information systems from Hunan Normal University, Changsha, China, in 2004, the M.E. degree in remote sensing from Peking University, Beijing, China, in 2007, and the Ph.D. degree in electrical engineering from the Instituto de Telecomunicações, Instituto Superior Técnico (IST), Universidade Técnica de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal, in 2011.

She is currently a Full Professor with Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China, where she founded her own research group: Hyperspectral Calibration and Learning (HCL) in 2013. Since then, she has obtained several prestigious funding grants at the national and international levels. She has authored or coauthored more than 160 journal citation report (JCR) papers (more than 100 in IEEE GRSS journals), 60 international conference papers, and a book chapter.

Prof. Li was the recipient of a significant number of citations to her published works, with many papers distinguished as "Highly Cited Papers" in Clarivate Analytics' Web of Science Essential Science Indicators (WoS-ESI). She was elevated to IEEE Senior Member status in 2016 and to IEEE Fellow status in 2021 "for contributions in hyperspectral image processing." She has received other important awards and distinctions, including the IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society (GRSS) Early Career Award in 2017. She has been an Associate Editor for the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON GEOSCIENCE AND REMOTE SENSING since 2019. From 2014 to 2018, she was an Associate Editor for the IEEE JOURNAL OF SELECTED TOPICS IN APPLIED EARTH OBSERVATIONS AND REMOTE SENSING (IEEE J-STARS). She has been a Guest Editor for several journals, including the IEEE J-STARS, PROCEEDINGS OF THE IEEE, and *ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry & Remote Sensing and Remote Sensing*. She has also been an active reviewer for several journals, including the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON GEOSCIENCE AND REMOTE SENSING, IEEE J-STARS, IEEE GEOSCIENCE AND REMOTE SENSING LETTERS, IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON IMAGE PROCESSING, *Pattern Recognition*, *Optical Engineering*, *Journal of Applied Remote Sensing*, and *Inverse Problems and Imaging*. She has been a GRSS Distinguished Lecturer since 2018. She was distinguished as a Best Reviewer of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON GEOSCIENCE AND REMOTE SENSING in 2018 and the IEEE J-STARS in 2015. She is currently an elected member of IEEE GRSS AdCom (2020–2022) and was the Chair of the IEEE GRSS Fellow and Senior Member Search Committee in 2018 and 2019. She was a member of the IEEE GRSS Special Award Committee. She is the President of the GRSS Guangzhou Chapter (established in 2019). She assisted in the organization of GRSS Summer Schools (GR4S) in 2018 and 2019. She was a member of the IGARSS Student Paper Competition evaluation panel in 2019, and was responsible for the allocation of Travel Grants for the IEEE International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium (IGARSS) in 2019. She has given several talks under the IEEE GRSS Distinguished Lecture Program. She has been a Keynote Speaker in numerous GRSS-related conferences/symposia, and presented invited Keynote Talks and different GRSS events. In January 2021, she starts her term as Editor-in-Chief of IEEE J-STARS.