International Journal of Qualitative Theory of Differential Equations and Applications Vol. 1, No. 2 (2007), pp. 115–116

## Preface to the Special Issue dedicated to Professor Zhicheng Wang

The year 2007 marks the official retirement of Professor Zhicheng Wang from Hunan University, People's Republic of China.

Professor Wang was one of the pioneers whose scientific contribution and leadership have contributed very much to the development of functional differential equations in China since 1970's when China started to rebuild its research programs. Hunan University quickly became one of the centers of activities in the subject area due to the efforts of Professor Wang and his colleagues. These activities have trained at least two generations and their long lasting impact has been realized and will be felt in the future.

Professor Wang's influential work covers a wide range of topics including fundamental theory, stability theory, oscillation theory, periodic solutions and applications of infinite dimensional dynamical systems, and in particular, functional differential equations. He has also trained numerous graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, many of whom have now established themselves both nationally and internationally.

In honor of Professor Wang's retirement as well as his great achievements in research and education, we have the greatest pleasure and honor in editing this Special Issue in the International Journal of Qualitative Theory of Differential Equations and Applications. Contributions are by invitation and are all from Professor Wang's friends, former students and colleagues. All submissions have been refereed among which, 20 have been accepted.

This number contains Part I of the Special Issue. Part II of the Special Issue will be published in Volume 2, Number 1 (2008).

Lihong Huang (Hunan University) Jianhong Wu (York University) Jianshe Yu (Guangzhou University) Xingfu Zou (University of Western Ontario) **Guest Editors** 

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