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Preface

On May 13 and 14, 2004 an international symposium on "Coastal hydrodynamics and morphodynamics" was held at Delft University of Technology on the occasion of Professor Jurjen Battjes' academic closing address, formally ending a scientific career of more than forty years. The occasion collected many scientists who have made a lasting impact on the field. Not unexpectedly, the gathering brought together a number of scientists in a similar position as Jurjen, viz. close to, just after and occasionally long after retirement. Allow me to mention Frans Gerritsen, Yoshimi Goda, Bob Dean, Bill Kamphuis, Tony Bowen, Howell Peregrine, Kees Vreugdenhil, Co van de Kreeke, Ed Thornton and especially the now sadly missed Ib Svendsen. In hindsight Ib's improvised speech at the end of the symposium, praising the person Jurjen was, was even more impressive, and is now engraved in our memories forever. However, as the readers of this special issue will notice not only "golden oldies" were present, but also younger generations of reputed scientists.

All lecturers at the symposium were invited to contribute to a special issue that lies now in front of you. Not all participated in this venture for various reasons. I like to highlight one contribution that was not or actually could not be converted into a paper, viz. the contribution of Bob Guza. He expressed his admiration about Jurjen's work by referring to Jurjen's PhD thesis, showing his battered private copy of the thesis with a multitude of yellow post-its on sections that he studied over the years and still now. His presentation in which a "perfectly spherical chicken" played a central role (a metaphor for periodic waves as an unrealistic and impossible representation of random waves) was not only utterly amusing but also very illustrative about the powerful contributions to wave theory Jurjen made already then.

As guest editor of this special Coastal Engineering issue I had the privilege to work with the authors during the review

process and to organize the collection of papers into a logical order. The help and guidance of Jurjen, working at the background to relieve my task, is greatly appreciated. We have ordered the sixteen contributions into four groups, two introductory papers, eight hydrodynamics papers, four morphodynamics papers and two miscellaneous papers.

The introductory papers are by Battjes himself and by Kamphuis. Whereas Battjes reviews recent advances in the science components of coastal engineering, Kamphuis addresses historical and recent shifts in philosophical and ethical issues in this field. The hydrodynamics papers address both classical issues, such as wave set-up (Dean), longshore currents (Goda), wave-wave interactions (Van Vledder), but also more recent issues such as rip currents (MacMahan et al.) and infragravity motions (Reniers et al.) and recent numerical advances such as smooth particle hydrodynamics (Dalrymple and Rogers; Gotoh and Sakai) and extensions of Boussinesq modelling (Liu et al.). The morphodynamics papers touch upon quite variable issues, viz. alongshore instabilities (Falques), tidal basin adaptation on longer time scales (Van de Kreeke), offshore sand waves (Nemeth et al.) and morphodynamic updating techniques (Roelvink). The miscellaneous section contains a contribution on identification of surge and tsunami hazards (Sobey) and finally a contribution on another noteworthy topic, viz. uncertainties and appropriate models (Vreugdenhil).

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