

Editorial

Dear readers,

The Netherlands Journal of Geosciences now enters its fourth year, and we are alive and kicking! We were curious at first whether the new formula would work, but looking at the increased manuscript flow, we think indeed that we have a position in the niche-market: results from Earth sciences in all its diversity from The Netherlands, the North sea basin and the geologically relevant surroundings. Increasingly, we attract papers concerning the physical geography and Quaternary geology. The Earth sciences are expanding in scope. Cooperation, if not mergers, with life sciences, or engineering are common in universities and funding agencies. NJG follows suit, and will broaden its slate of subjects.

We are nevertheless still short in regular contributions. As you all can see, we thrive on special issues, and some of those are very successful, and a number of interesting specials are in the pipeline. For example, the special issue on the Han-sur-Lesse conference PALEOSIS has widely been regarded as a success, and the 40th anniversary of the Groningen gas field is yet another example. However, it is our aim to create a good balance between regular and special issues.

With success come problems. Last year we have overachieved our page budget (a bonus for you, 100 pages extra for no extra charge!).

With the present issue we will introduce a new category of papers for timely and short contributions: Geo(im)pulse. These will consist of a maximum of 4 pages, that will be rapidly reviewed and published, and published if time is pressing within the special issues, although we do not encourage such practice. We will also refer more figures to the NJG webpages, with a link provided in the article itself, that will remain available as archive for a long period of time. A recurrent problem is the quality of the figures. If you think that with the advent of electronic desktop drawing aids, publishing would be easier, you need to think twice. Hand drafted figures, once commonly produced at university drafting facilities are not made

anymore. This has led to a proliferation of drawing and drafting programs in the last decade. Often a figure is based on a copy of an earlier used background and copy-pasted from yet another program. It may look nice on a laserprint, but the desktop publishing program of our printer turns those nice looking patterns and fills into garbage! It is foreseeable that eventually we will change our illustration format (and the publishing industry) into a general PDF format that can be used everywhere. But that is music for the future. Please have mercy on our technical editor, and make you figures simple on one program only, and use standard fonts! (Plantin is our house font, if you have it, use it! Times New Roman is the preferred alternative.)

NJG is rising in the citation indexes, a good sign that we are on the right track. Let us keep it this way and submit your papers to NJG!