

MISSION STATEMENT: BELLIE SIVAKUMAR

Water is central to our socio-economic development and environmental sustainability. In the Asia-Oceania region, water has become a far more critical resource in the twenty first century, due to population explosion, improving living standard, and many other factors. The Asia-Oceania Geosciences Society (AOGS) was founded to essentially address water and other geoscience-related issues in the region.

The Hydrological Sciences (HS) section of AOGS has witnessed significant growth since the inception of AOGS more than a decade ago. The dedication and leadership of past and present presidents of the HS section, not to mention the contributions from HS section members, has played a vital role both in increasing the membership of the HS section and in expanding the research areas. Working together with the other sections of AOGS, the HS section has also played a significant role in advancing the broader geoscience field in Asia-Oceania, including the creation of a new journal *Geoscience Letters*.

Despite these advances, several key challenges for the HS section, and for AOGS more broadly, still remain. Among the challenges are: (1) further expansion of the HS section, especially in attracting new members from less-developed countries of the region; (2) addressing issues related to water security and management, including that of transboundary waters, in addition to studying traditional hydrologic modeling-oriented issues, so as to facilitate an even broader and more complete framework to water research; (3) working with colleagues of the other AOGS sections to further advance *Geoscience Letters*, while at the same time also exploring possibilities to have a journal for the HS section on its own; and (4) improving interactions among members both within the HS section and with other sections to address geoscience issues in Asia-Oceania in a truly interdisciplinary manner. To achieve these, dedication, experience, and leadership in studying water issues are key.

Over the past two decades, I have conducted research on some of the most important and challenging topics in hydrologic sciences, including modern complexity, nonlinear dynamic, and scaling concepts, climate change impacts on water resources, catchment classification framework, and water crisis and conflict issues. I have served in technical committees of world-renowned associations in geosciences, including the American Geophysical Union (AGU) and the European Geosciences Union (EGU) – AGU Surface Hydrology Committee, EGU Catchment Hydrology Sub-division Committee and EGU Hydroinformatics Sub-division Committee. I have served as the Associate Editor/Editorial Board Member of seven highly-reputed international journals, and have been the lead editor of six journal special issues. I have also been a member of several professional associations and conference technical committees.

With such dedication to research in hydrology, service to the hydrologic community, and participation and leadership in various committees, I believe I possess all the qualities necessary to become the President of the HS section to further advance the HS section, and AOGS more broadly. I will do everything possible to address the above key challenges for the HS section and promote and expand the section, and AOGS, for the benefit of humanity in the Asia-Oceania region, and beyond.