

## Introduction

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The special issues (nos. 13) of *Eurasian Soil Science* published only in English are intended to give overviews of some noticeable pedological events that recently occurred in Russia, or to present new information that accumulated in certain fields of soil science.

This issue is composed of papers on rather traditional topics in Russian pedology and soil science—the geography and evolution of soils. However, they were written by specialists from at least 10 countries who participated in two workshops of 2009 in Mexico and Russia. These were: “Soil Geography: New Horizons” (Huatulco Santa Cruz, Oaxaca, Mexico) and “Evolution of the Soil Cover: History of Ideas and Research Methods, the Holocene Evolution and Forecasts” (Pushchino, Russia).

New ideas in soil geography, as presented in this issue, are related to the application of digital soil mapping to different objects and at different scales, including its intricate bonds with pedodiversity, which poses

its own conceptual and assessment problems. Soil geography also presumes getting new knowledge on poorly explored objects: “exotic” soils of Patagonia, southern and northeastern Siberia are described in several papers.

The evolution of soils as related to the paleoenvironments is discussed at various time scales starting with the Pleistocene; then, the events in the Holocene as recorded by soils are analyzed in many papers; those of the recent centuries are also considered in terms of human impacts. The most recent changes caused by weathering of volcanic ashes dated by April 2005 were thoroughly studied by an international team. New research methods for recording soil changes are shown to be efficiently applied either to the whole soil profiles, or to their specific ingredients—secondary carbonates, organic matter, biological objects, and primary minerals.

This issue was prepared by the efforts of Maria Gerasimova and Pavel Krasilnikov.