by Jin-Yong Lee and Heejung Kim*

Special thanks to our peer reviewers for 2021

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Episodes, established in 1961 as the flagship journal for the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), has been contributing to the development of the Earth Sciences by, among the services that it can offer, providing support to the academic endeavors by its members in this field. As is well known, for a research paper to be published, it must undergo evaluation as a part of the editing process. In particular, our journal is known to have rigorous evaluation standards. In addition, the committee members conducting the evaluation dedicate much effort and commitment to guarantee the fairness of the

evaluation and excellence of our published papers, which is why the evaluation takes time. Nonetheless, we have managed to reduce the required amount of time for evaluation through the efforts of the evaluation and editing committee over the last few years. The majority of the evaluation period is devoted to the time required by the committee to conduct its evaluation and the time used by the author for modifications. The editorial team and publication committee at *Episode* is putting all of its efforts toward minimizing this timeline, and these efforts require the commitment and sacrifice of the people tasked with editing as well as the evaluation committee. The editorial board members are composed of some of the most highly regarded subject matter experts in the field of Earth Sciences worldwide. Many of the editorial board members are also busy with other commitments, which is why we hesitate to place additional burdens on them when we request their evaluation. However, the great dedication to service and sacrifice displayed by the editorial members has allowed us to publish four improved editions of *Episodes* annually, acting as the driving force for development in Earth Sciences globally. *Episodes*, along with the Publication Committee, and on behalf of the authors and readers, would like to extend its most sincere gratitude for the swift and objective evaluation by the evaluation committee members. Moreover, *Episodes* is committed to continuing to raising the bar of its journal while providing quick services, and it would highly appreciate the support and interest of its members.

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