

## *Preface*

# **2nd EGU Alexander von Humboldt Conference “The role of Geophysics in Natural Disaster Prevention”**

This special volume of *Advances in Geosciences* is devoted to papers presented during the 2nd EGU Alexander von Humboldt Conference on “The role of Geophysics in Natural Disaster Prevention” held 5–9 March 2007 in Lima/Perú. Co-organized by the European Geosciences Union (EGU) and the Instituto Geofísico del Perú it was attended by about 200 scientists from more than 40 countries worldwide.

Topics covered during the 5 days’ meeting were:

- Volcanic Eruptions
- Earthquakes
- Tsunamis
- Landslides
- Avalanches
- Extreme climate and/or meteorological disastrous events
  - El Niño related
  - Global change related
  - Hurricanes

These topics were introduced by Keynote and invited Speakers, who, in concert with the highly interdisciplinary audience, set the scene for vivid discussions. Besides new or improved methods for natural hazard assessments and mitigation, the conference aimed at discussing the “dilemma” of scientists against the expectations of decision makers: While scientists, in most cases, evaluate natural hazards in probabilistic terms, decision makers expect to get precise forecasts. This problem was highlighted by reports on failures and successes of past prevention cases, as well as socio-economic aspects.

The organizers of the 2nd EGU Humboldt Conference, now in the role of guest editors of this special volume of *Advances in Geosciences*, like to use this opportunity for thanking their teams and many sponsors for making this conference possible. We particularly like to thank the keynote speakers most of whom have given valuable additional help towards setting up the scientific program and in the review process for this volume. Last not least we thank all authors who provided their papers for this proceedings volume.

**P. Fabian**, European Geosciences Union

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*Special Volume Editors*