

FOREWORD

On March, 31st, 2010, Muharrem Satir officially retired after almost 22 years as the chair of Geochemistry at University of Tübingen. On May, 8th, 2010, this event was celebrated with a conference in Tübingen, attended by more than 100 colleagues, friends, fellows and students of Muharrem from all over the world. It took place in the very lecture hall, where Muharrem spent a considerable time of his life and his scientific career. Eight talks were given, presented by scientists who played a special role in Muharrem's career, covering different geological and geochemical topics.

These talks were the background of what you now hold in your hands – a special issue of the 'Turkish Journal of Earth Sciences', dedicated to the retirement of Muharrem Satir. People, who have been working together with Muharrem throughout his career contributed to it. I, myself, have already known Muharrem now for more than 25 years, since June 1985. Starting as his HIWI at Technical University of Munich, following him to University of Tübingen, where I finished my PhD Thesis under his supervision, and finally becoming his, what we say 'right hand'. It was both an honour and a pleasure for me to organize the farewell party for him in Tübingen and it is a great honour in particular, now to be the guest-editor of this special issue.

Geochemistry is a 'geo-subdiscipline' that is linked to all other fields of Geoscience. Element concentrations and isotope ratios – the geochemists' playground – provide essential tools for interpretation and discussion for all Geoscientists. So as a Geochemist you must not only focus on your own research subject and try to be excellent in what you do, you also have to be very open minded and

have the talent to undertake interdisciplinary work. Muharrem always was very successful in recognizing very early where geoscience was heading and was always open to new ideas. This is all reflected in the publications of this issue. They focus on classical subjects of major- and trace element geochemistry, radiogenic isotopes, geochronology, and stable isotopes in plutonic and metamorphic rocks, and also cover applied geoscience.

I only recently thought about what was the most impressive characteristic of Muharrem as 'our' Geochemistry boss here in Tübingen. And what always came to my mind was: 'humanity and respect'. We laughed a lot, had a lot of fun and a great time together, but on the other hand he also could make you feel angry and upset after a discussion in his office. But everything happened in a very human and respectful way – and that human aspect and respect is something you never forget.

In view of this, it is not a coincidence that two manuscripts of this issue also investigate the human factor on earth. Geothermal fields and energy as well as radioactive waste disposals will have a significant impact on the development of human societies and will be a fundamental research field for future generations of geoscientists.

I trust that young researchers will show the same enthusiasm, courage, ambition, dedication and open mind that I always recognized in Muharrem's eyes.

Guest Editor

HEINRICH TAUBALD

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