



## Preface

The Indian Ocean has perhaps seen greater international scientific collaboration than the other oceans as it was subjected to extensive exploration by about 50 countries during the International Indian Ocean Expedition (1961–1965). It is ironic, therefore, that this ocean, particularly its northern part, continues to pose many more unsolved scientific questions than any other oceanic area. This is primarily because of its unusual geographical setting and the associated climate that make the oceanography of this region rather distinctive. In recent years, there has been a rekindling of interest of the international oceanographic community in the Indian Ocean and several big projects have either been initiated or are in advanced stages of planning under the aegis of the Joint Ocean Global Flux Study (JGOFS), World Ocean Circulation Experiment (WOCE) and Global Ocean Ecosystem Dynamics (GLOBEC). In order to derive maximum benefits from these efforts, it is imperative that the results of recent studies undertaken in this region should be made available quickly to the international scientific community. A great deal of information has already been furnished through recent publications of special symposium volumes and scientific journals. This issue, comprising papers presented at a symposium organized on 28 August 1992 at the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Goa, to felicitate Dr. R. Sen Gupta on his 60th birthday represents another effort in this direction.

Appropriately, this issue opens with a brief biographical sketch of Dr. Sen Gupta who must be

credited for initiating quantitative studies on the chemical oceanography of the northern Indian Ocean. Through the papers included here, his students, colleagues and friends acknowledge his valuable contributions and wish him many more years of productive research.

A large part of Sen Gupta's research dealt with the Bay of Bengal, an area that contrasts sharply with the Arabian Sea in several respects. This oceanographically unique part of the world oceans has been inexplicably underexplored so far. Several papers included in this volume dealing with the Bay of Bengal will remedy this deficiency to some extent.

The organization of the symposium and the publication of this issue could not have been possible without contributions from several sources. We record our sincere thanks to the Director, NIO, Goa for infrastructural facilities, to Prof. B.L.K. Somayajulu of Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, for immense support and encouragement, and to all our colleagues from the Chemical Oceanography Division for their active involvement. We are indebted to Prof. Frank J. Millero, Editor-in-Chief of *Marine Chemistry*, for agreeing to bring out this special issue at a short notice, and for his valuable guidance. We are also grateful to the reviewers for their unseen contributions, and to the staff at the Editorial Office for their efficient handling.

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