

# 1 Foreword

In 2010 the IERS achieved several important milestones in the evolution of its key products for scientific and societal uses. The IERS Conventions (2010) were finalized and published as IERS Technical Note 36. It is widely understood that the IERS Conventions are the basis for the underlying analysis and interpretation of the ITRF, EOP and ICRF and require continual updating as geophysical and astronomical models are improved. Through the coordinated efforts of the ITRS Center, the ITRS Combination Centers and the four Technique Centers the ITRF2008 was released along with the companion DTRF2008. It remains the goal of the IERS to encourage other ITRS combination activities and continued investigation of the combination process. Using ITRF2008 the Earth Orientation Center generated a new, consistent series C04\_08 to replace C04\_05. As the ICRF2 became the fundamental celestial reference frame on 1 January 2010 according to IAU Resolution B3, 2010 saw the renewal of all the essential IERS products.

In other areas the Rapid Service/Prediction Center improved the use of AAM data and began a pilot project on EOP prediction. The new structure of the GGFC became effective on 1 January 2010 with a new Special Bureau for Combination and new product centers. It is expected that the GGFC products will improve the analysis supporting the main IERS products. Looking back in history, the Central Bureau digitized IERS Technical Notes Nos. 1 – 28, published between 1989 and 2000, which are now available at the IERS web site.

The achievements of the IERS in 2010 mark progress toward the vision articulated by Markus Rothacher, the IERS Analysis Coordinator whose term completed in 2010. The new Analysis Coordinator Tom Herring will bring a fresh pair of eyes on the framework and practices of the IERS as it continues its necessary service work and plans its next steps.

*Chopo Ma  
Chair, IERS Directing Board (2005–2012)*