PREFACE

It is a great honor for us to be the editors of this special issue of the Asian Journal of Mathematics dedicated to Professor Salah Baouendi, who turns seventy this year. Throughout his distinguished career, Professor Baouendi has made fundamental and profound contributions to Several Complex Variables as well as Partial Differential Equations. Professor Baouendi's work has been seminal in a broad spectrum of mathematical research. In light of his scientific accomplishments, Professor Baouendi has received many honors including prizes awarded by the French Academy of Sciences "Prix de l'Institut, Prix d'Aumale" in 1969, Invited Speaker at the International Congress of Mathematicians in 1974, Stefan Bergman Prize in 2003, and was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2005. Over the last few decades he has been invited to lecture around the world at the most prestigious mathematical meetings and, in particular, has traveled frequently to many Asian countries to encourage their scientific development.

Salah has rendered tremendous service to the mathematical community. He has been a very impressive leader both of his department and of the mathematical community at large. Special note should be made of his leadership during the Rochester crisis, his chairmanship of the National Committee for Mathemattics, his leadership of the American delegation to the International Mathematical Union, etc. Together with Linda Rothschild, Salah has done remarkable work as Editor-in-Chief of Mathematical Research Letters.

We are his friends and colleagues who have had many occasions to interact with him in mainland China, including Zhejiang University, Wuhan University, Academia Sinica in Bejing, the University of Hong Kong and the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and in the U.S. Like many other mathematicians, we have benefited from his presence and from his generous help. He also helped the Chinese mathematical community to organize two high level international conferences on Several Complex Variables: one at the University of Hong Kong in 2003 and the other at the University of Science and Technology at Heifei in 2005. It is very appropriate for the Asian Journal of Mathematics to dedicate this special issue to Professor Baouendi on the occasion of his seventieth birthday.

We are very grateful to all the authors who have contributed their excellent research articles to this issue in recognition of the invaluable contribution that Professor Baouendi has made to Mathematics. At this occasion, we would like to express our deepest friendship and gratitude to Professor Baouendi and to wish him a happy birthday and many more healthy and productive years ahead.

The Guest Editors of AJM

Xiaojun Huang, Joseph J. Kohn,
Yum-Tung Siu and Stephen S.T. Yau