

Foreword

This special volume of *Memoirs of National Institute of Polar Research (NIPR)* is the *Proceedings of the Fourth Symposium of Antarctic Geosciences*, which was held on October 28 and 29, 1983 at NIPR, Tokyo. This volume contains 20 full scientific papers and 7 abstracts, dealing with geology, petrology, geomorphology, geophysics and geochemistry of Antarctic regions.

If the Editor is allowed to frankly express his personal view, he would like to say that this volume is a mixture of gems and stones in the traditional oriental expression, or in the western simile, a jumble of wheat and tares, in the field of Antarctic geosciences. However, some stones also may contain nuclides which may grow up to major geoscientific problems in the future.

The NIPR symposium of Antarctic geosciences has been and will be held annually in order to establish a comprehensive geoscientific picture of the Antarctic continent and its neighborhood. On the way of geoscientific research of Antarctica along this road, a balance among individual geoscientific disciplines may not always be well maintained, but some emphasis may be put on some research discipline at some time. Emphasized research disciplines may be changed from time to time in accordance with the current general research project of the Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition. It is hoped and therefore planned that the integrated result of these individual studies can achieve a comprehensive geoscientific model of Antarctica as a whole.

In this sense, the present volume may be regarded as one of mile-stones of the planned development of Antarctic geoscience research.

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