

Foreword

This special volume of Memoirs of National Institute of Polar Research is the "Proceedings of the Second Symposium on Antarctic Geosciences", which was held on the 13th and 14th of November 1980 at National Institute of Polar Research (NIPR), Tokyo. The proceedings of the First Symposium on Antarctic Geosciences was published in October 1979 as Special Issue No. 14 of Memoirs of NIPR, which contains 23 scientific papers covering geology, geomorphology, glaciology, geophysics and geochemistry in Antarctica. This volume therefore could be considered the second step of development of geosciences in NIPR research activities.

In the second symposium too, not only geology and petrology but geophysical and geochemical aspects also were discussed, to fair extent, with respect to the structure of the Antarctic Continent. In this volume, however, 10 scientific papers dealing only with local and regional geology in Antarctica and petrology and mineralogy of Antarctic rocks are compiled. It is hoped therefore that other scientific papers on Antarctic geosciences also will be compiled in an appropriate form in the near future.

The term of geoscience has been temporally selected for the symposia so that geology, mineralogy, geography, geophysics and geochemistry in Antarctica could be synthetically investigated in order to find the whole comprehensive figure of the Antarctic Continent by use of all available research techniques. Indeed, it is planned and practically carried out by the Japanese Antarctic Research Expeditions to study on the Antarctic Continent along the definition of geoscience. Results of the synthetic studies will be reported in the future publications of the Proceedings of NIPR symposia on Antarctic geosciences. Although this volume is only one milestone for the scheduled long way of geoscientific studies of Antarctica, it is hoped that this also could be an important structure element of the whole program.

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