

PREFACE

The Second International Symposium on Environmental Research in the Arctic and Fifth Ny-Ålesund Scientific Seminar were held jointly at the National Institute of Polar Research, 23–25 February 2000. The symposium provided a platform to discuss Arctic research based on recent results.

National Institute of Polar Research (NIPR) started activities in the Arctic in 1990, when the Arctic Environment Research Center was established in NIPR. The first International Symposium was held in 1995 with the particular goal to promote Arctic research in terms of the global environment. Since 1995, NIPR has conducted major research activities in the Arctic as the “International Cooperative Research Project on Arctic Environment (1995–1998)” according to International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) initiatives. The symposium served as the final report of this International Cooperative Project.

The purpose of the annual Ny-Ålesund Scientific Seminars is to promote scientific exchange to stimulate interaction and further cooperation among all scientists active in Ny-Ålesund. This seminar is jointly organized by the Ny-Ålesund Science Managers Committee and EU-sponsored Large Scale Facility “Ny-Ålesund Arctic Environmental Research Facility”.

The Symposium and Seminar were jointly organized in order to provide a unique opportunity for exchange among scientists active in Ny-Ålesund and those working in other geographical areas of the Arctic. A total of 129 papers were presented at the symposium under six major topics: (1) overview of Arctic environmental research, (2) atmospheric environment in the Arctic, (3) glaciological environments in the Arctic, (4) change in Arctic marine environment, (5) Arctic terrestrial ecosystems and (6) Arctic upper atmosphere environment. The present volume contains 51 full-length papers, submitted under four categories: scientific original papers, scientific notes, review papers and reports. The scientific papers were refereed by two reviewers each, and the others by one reviewer each.

It is hoped that this volume will contribute to the progress of research on the Arctic environment and international cooperation. Our sincere thanks are due to all of the contributors and referees who have readily cooperated to bring about this volume. We also thank Ms. M. Sakai and the publication officers at the Library of the National Institute of Polar Research for the publication of the proceedings.

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