

## Preface

Dear colleagues!

In compiling this issue, which presents some results obtained by the participants of the Siberian Aerosols Workgroup, I have tried to analyze briefly the progress achieved in recent years.

The current situation in Russian science is such that only those research teams continue to work with high efficiency, whose level and research field are demanded by international and domestic science. Almost all participants of our workgroup are recognized internationally and their researches are supported, as a rule, by well-known domestic and international science foundations. I am pleased to note that the main role here is played by the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (more than 30 different RFBR grants are mentioned in the papers included in this issue, and in view of the fact that the RFBR also supports scientists' travels, we can say that most participants are supported by this foundation to a certain extent).

We can assert that the teams making up the Workgroup have high level of research and their results are highly competitive with the results of foreign colleagues. In my opinion, in the depth of understanding and in the scope of research, the works of our specialists are at the top of the international level. At the same time, some disadvantages are obvious now that limit the progress in solving particular problems that do not allow our specialists to occupy the appropriate position in the international projects. The most important disadvantage is the absence of up-to-date equipment. In fact, our specialists usually have devices appropriate for measurement of some parameters (very often, the level of our devices even exceeds the level achieved in the international practice), but modern environmental research programs demand a large number of identical, internationally approved, and certified devices, because of the need in identical measurements at different sites, and just this demand is the main problem. Another disadvantage is the absence of large well-supported interdisciplinary projects and, as a consequence, corresponding multidisciplinary journals.

The first steps made by the Presidium of Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences in 2000 was to organize and support multidisciplinary programs, as well as to re-equip research centers give some optimism, that was mentioned by many participants.

At the same time, a very important advantage of 2001 is a large number of young scientists among the participants and rather high level of their studies.

*Executive editor*  
**Professor M. V. Panchenko**