

PREFACE OF THE EDITOR OF THE TOPICAL ISSUE

The Fourth Meeting of the Working Group on the Project Siberian Aerosols was held by the Institute of Atmospheric Optics SB RAS in Tomsk on November 25–28, 1997 by the decree of the Presidium of the SB RAS in accordance with the syllabus of conferences and meetings of the SB RAS for 1997.

At the Meeting, 91 (including 5 plenary, 66 oral, and 20 poster) reports were presented. The reports of the Working Group on the Project provided a possibility of estimating the state of the art of the work in this direction and a good basis for generation of new ideas.

At the Meeting, 65 representatives from 12 scientific institutions of 8 towns of Russia and CIS (2 from Barnaul, 2 from Irkutsk, 3 from Kol'tsovo settlement of the Novosibirsk Region, 1 from Moscow, 13 from Novosibirsk, 1 from Sankt-Petersburg, 42 from Tomsk, and 1 from Alma-Ata) took part. The reports presented at the meeting included, as a rule, new theoretical and experimental results. All topics of the Meeting were sufficiently covered by the participants from other towns (23 representatives).

On the basis of the work of the sections and final discussion, the participants mutually enriched by facts and achievements and exchanged by their opinions. Surviving scientific groups were named and subjects of their work were demonstrated. The conclusion on intensification of initiative works of geophysical orientation in Siberia can be drawn from the amount and quality of materials presented at the Meeting. It was generally agreed that such working groups aimed at coordination of scientific researches in this specific direction, when the financial support of large integrated projects is practically absent, are necessary. The record number of reports presented at the Meeting in 1997 were submitted for publication in the topical issue of the *Journal of Atmospheric and Oceanic Optics*. It is natural that all papers could not be published in one issue of the Journal, so we should choose. We decided to publish in the present issue the papers that illustrate the geography of investigations primarily in the territory of Siberia. The remaining papers presented at the meeting will be published in the next issues of our Journal.

The participants recognized high scientific-organization level of the Meeting and acknowledged the Institute of Atmospheric Optics of the SB RAS for organization of the Meeting and provision of its fruitful work.

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*Chairman of the Organizing Committee
Doctor of Physical and Mathematical Sciences
Mikhail V. Panchenko*