

EDITOR'S PREFACE

The Project "Siberian Aerosols" is aimed at uniting the collective of researchers for arrangement of a comprehensive investigation into the problems connected with aerosol throughout the Siberian region.

The topical issue of the journal *Atmospheric and Oceanic Optics* brought to your notice was compiled from the reports presented at the Second Meeting of the working group of the Project "Siberian Aerosols" which was held in the Tomsk Institute of Atmospheric Optics of Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences in November 21–23, 1995. During this Meeting researchers discussed the results of experimental and theoretical studies in the following research areas: instrumentation and methods for studying aerosol; aerosol generation, transformation, transport, and sink; aerosol optical properties; aerosol dynamics under background conditions; anthropogenic aerosol; aerosol–gas relations. A separate cycle of reports was devoted to the complex airborne experiment on evaluating the quality of the environment about Lake Baikal.

When working out the Meeting Program the Organizing Committee has established the following goals: to share new results, introduce new scientific groups – participants of the Project, draw up plans for the future. Following the tradition, when compiling this topical issue, we decided to publish all materials presented without a severe review in order to reproduce the atmosphere of discussions inherent in the working group and to encourage new participants.

I would like to hope that this issue will be interesting for specialists in atmospheric physics and optics, ecology, and pollution analysis.

In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge, on behalf of all participants, the Russian Foundation for Fundamental Researches for the financial support of the Meeting (Grant No. 95-05-16938).

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