

## Siberian Aerosols

The papers included in this topical issue of the *Atmospheric and Oceanic Optics* journal describe the results obtained by the research team that informally exists for already six years within the framework of “Siberian Aerosols” Workgroup. From year to year, the workshops of this group cover the wider scope of problems in the processes of formation and transformation of aerosol particles in the atmosphere over Siberian territories. Now it is much clearer that atmospheric aerosol (especially, under specific geophysical conditions) is a subject for a multidisciplinary studies. Now it is obvious that the atmospheric aerosol should be studied in close co-operation of investigators from different research areas. At limited funding (what is characteristic of the Russian science today) the information exchange and coordinated studies performed by different research teams supported from different funding sources become very important.

In this connection, a great role belongs to topical issues of the *Atmospheric and Oceanic Optics* journal, which present the proceedings of the “Siberian Aerosols” Workshops for already several years. At the same time, there are some objective difficulties in preparation of such issues because of the multidisciplinary character of the subject. The main difficulty is the absence of multidisciplinary journals (like, for example, *Atmospheric Environment*) in Russia. Presentation of papers in various specialized journals gives no positive effect, because in this case a participant can hardly familiarize himself (or herself) with the results of other participants. Moreover, because of the strict requirements imposed on papers submitted for publication in specialized journals, some papers, after the corresponding revisions, become incomprehensible to specialists in other fields. The inevitably different time of publication in different journals is also a problem. All this decreases significantly the coordinating role of such publications.

For this issue we have selected papers of leading specialists in each research area discussed at the Workshop. Practically all the papers published were presented as reports and discussed at the Workshop in 1999 in Tomsk and recommended for publication. The authors of papers took into account the criticism they got in the discussions at the Workshop. In conclusion, I would like to note that one issue is not enough for publication of all the papers submitted, so it will be continued in the next issues of the *Atmospheric and Oceanic Optics* journal.

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