

EDITOR'S PREFACE

The IV Symposium on Atmospheric and Oceanic Optics was held in Tomsk from June 10 to June 12, 1997. It was supported by the Russian Foundation of Basic Researches. Forty-three scientific institutions from 16 cities of Russia, Belorussia, and Ukraine as well as from the USA and France (reports of American and France scientists were presented by their Russian co-authors) took part at the Symposium. More than 200 reports were delivered, including 37 oral (plenary and invited) reports and more than 160 posters.

The symposium included the following topics:

- *absorption and scattering of the optical radiation in the atmosphere,*
- *propagation of optical waves in randomly inhomogeneous media and adaptive optics,*
- *image transfer and interpretation,*
- *nonlinear effects accompanying the propagation of optical waves in the atmosphere and aqueous media,*
- *radiation, clouds, aerosols, and greenhouse gases,*
- *optical, radar, and acoustic methods of remote sensing of the atmosphere and ocean,*
- *ecological monitoring of air and water basins of the Earth,*
- *techniques and instruments for atmospheric optics and oceanic applications.*

The workshop on Diagnostics of Biospheric – Atmospheric Interactions under Stress Conditions was held as part of the Symposium, in which 7 reports were heard.

The participants were deeply involved in the Symposium (almost all reports included in the Program were delivered or presented). They had been leading fruitful discussions for the whole three days. A competition among the reports was organized and its winners received small money prizes.

The present issue of the Journal *Atmospheric and Oceanic Optics* has been prepared on the materials of this Symposium. It includes the most interesting and significant papers.

*Vice-chairman of the Organizing Committee
of the Symposium, Ph. D. V.A. Banakh*