

FOREWORD

Dear friends!

The previous 14th Workshop “Siberian Aerosols” was dedicated to the 15th anniversary of the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR).

The Russian Foundation for Basic Research was created by the Russian Federation President Decree No. 426 of April 27, 1992 as a response to the initiative of the most outstanding Russian scientists.

Our Workshop is especially grateful to RFBR, because just the many-year support of such an authoritative body has provided for an opportunity to hold annually our meetings and allowed us to preserve our best high-quality specialists, as well as to attract a great number of young scientists to the aerosol problems.

A lot of new multi-disciplinary projects, supported by RFBR and other scientific funds, were created on the basis of our informal collective. Annually, more than 150 Russian scientists from different cities take part in our meeting.

We have published 13 report collections (more than 100 publications) and 13 specialized issues of the “Atmospheric and Oceanic Optics” journal, which included more than 200 most significant works.

During these years, nine our regular participants became Doctors and seventeen – Candidates of Sciences (PhDs).

I think that the existence of such an informal community allowed us to keep the potential of Russian scientists at a high level, which is in some fields even higher than the world one.

In reports of 2007, which form this issue, the references to 52 RFBR grants, as well as INTAS, Federal Agency of Science and Innovations, different interdisciplinary and integration projects of RAS and SB RAS can be found.

Among most urgent tasks of the world science, which in one way or another are connected with our Workshop problems, are the following.

The appearance of well financially supported **nanoparticle** programs activated the interest of researchers to the field developed by the Workshop for many years, namely, **the processes of nucleation and gas–particle transfer**.

The start of the **International Polar Year** has been reflected in the activity of the Workshop members to **the investigations in Arctic and Antarctic Regions**.

It is important that a great number of reports and a series of Round Tables were dedicated to the problems, which will be most urgent in the nearest future due to the process of the climate warming. These problems are **desertification and forest fires**. As applied to majority of regions of our country, these very problems are of great importance.

I hope that our informal scientific team, united by “Siberian Aerosols” Workshop, will be successful in maintaining its creative working atmosphere.

Professor M. V. Panchenko