

Editorial

The past two decades have witnessed enormous transformation in economics and science in China, which in turn has provided inspiration for joint research between Chinese and foreign scientists. In particular, China is now in an important transition period during which more young scientists are beginning to emerge as scientific leaders. Thus, the Third International Ocean-Atmosphere Conference (IOAC) was held during 28–30 June 2004 in the historical but modern city of Beijing in order to strengthen scientific and technical exchanges among atmospheric and oceanic professionals between China and the world. This conference was originally scheduled for July 2003, but it was later cancelled due to the outbreak of SARS in East Asia. Despite various unexpected events, the conference was a great success. There were about 335 registered participants, of which 115 scientists came from more than 10 different countries and districts. Roughly two-thirds of them were researchers in the atmospheric sciences.

This special issue of *Advances in Atmospheric Sciences* is devoted especially more to the atmospheric science related papers presented during the Third IOAC. A total of 33 articles, half of which will appear in the January 2006 edition, represent a subset of about 300 papers presented during the conference. These articles cover a wide variety of topics, including El Niño-Southern Oscillation, climate change, Asian summer monsoon, numerical simulations and ensemble forecasts, severe storms, boundary-layer meteorology, mountain meteorology, tropical meteorology, remote sensing instrumentations and their related meteorological retrieval, atmospheric chemistry, ocean circulations, and space weather. They are presented in the forms of review, case study, technical and theoretical analysis with both operational and research orientations.

We, as guest editors of this special issue, wish to thank all of the authors for investing their time and effort into making this special issue possible. We also thank all of the anonymous reviewers who provided valuable suggestions for improving the quality of the manuscripts, including the English editing of some of the articles.

It should be mentioned that the Third IOAC would not have been successful without the strong support from the Chinese-American Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, local and overseas program committees, and many agencies in China. In particular, we wish to thank the Institute of Atmospheric Physics for hosting the conference, the Chinese Meteorological Society, the Chinese Society of Oceanography, the Natural Science Foundation of China, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and the Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology for their sponsorships. Of course, the commitment and active participation of many foreign and domestic scientists was key to the success of the Third IOAC.

It is our hope as well as the hope of all sponsors of the Third IOAC that this special issue will serve as a forum for further scientific and technical exchanges and for expanded collaborative activities between Chinese and foreign scientists.

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