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PREFACE

This is the last issue of the Proceedings of the Research Institute of Atmospheric, Nagoya University. Since this institute is to be re-organized into a new organization during the next fiscal year, all publications concerned will be renewed in 1990.

The research Institute of Atmospheric was established in 1949 aiming at the study of atmospheric in connection with interference with radio communications. Early research concentrated on radio emission from lightning discharges, thunderstorms and solar radio emission for prediction of ionospheric disturbances. Since IGY the research field has been expanded to the studies of whistler waves, magnetospheric plasma waves, atmospheric electricity, chemical composition of the upper atmosphere, and solar wind in terms of interplanetary scintillations of radio stars. Computer simulation on the interaction between the solar wind and the magnetosphere has also been developed. Thus, the research fields now cover the greater part of the solar-terrestrial system.

At the same time, the global interest in or uneasiness over the changes in the Earth's environment is greatly increasing in recent years. Since the solar energy flux is overwhelming in the Earth's outer space, the study of the Earth's environment is inevitably connected with the study of the complicated solar-terrestrial system. The Research Institute of Atmospheric, with its appropriate background in research fields, in fusion with the Cosmic Ray Research Laboratory, is going to be reformed into a new organization, the Solar-Terrestrial Environment Laboratories, Nagoya University. The new organization aims at understanding the solar-terrestrial system, especially the Earth's response to the change in the solar energy and material fluxes as well as human activities. Interactive studies between the various solar-terrestrial phenomena in conjunction with the modeling of the solar-terrestrial system will be the major activities of the new Solar-Terrestrial Environment Laboratories. The Research Institute of Atmospheric has now fulfilled its originally assigned mission, although many activities will actually be continued and further developed within the new organization. This new organization will launch a new series of publications which will cover the major parts of the Proceedings series. We sincerely hope that our new publications will also be full of interest for the readers of the wider STE community.

- Takashi Oguti -

