

## Preface

The International Symposium on Global Change in Asia and Pacific Regions (GCAP), co-sponsored by the Chinese National Committee for International Geosphere-Biosphere Program (IGBP), Chinese National Committee for Pacific Science Association (PSA), and the Chinese National Committee for the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), was held in Beijing, China from 8 to 10 August, 1994. Its organizing committee was headed by the following scientists:

Chairman: Professor Duzheng YE (T.-C. Yeh),  
Vice Chairman: Professor Hongle SUN,  
Professor Qingcun ZENG,  
Professor Shu SUN,  
Secretary General: Professor Banqing CHEN  
Executive Secretary: Professor Bin OUYANG

There were 5 sessions during the Symposium, i.e.,

- ☆ Past global change;
- ☆ Global change impact and terrestrial ecosystems;
- ☆ Variability of the climate system;
- ☆ Biogeochemical cycles and greenhouse gases; and
- ☆ Earth observation for global change.

Altogether about 250 participants from 14 countries or regions attended the Symposium.

The State Key Laboratory of Atmospheric Sciences and Geophysical Fluid Dynamics (LASG) has, since 1986, organ-

ized International Summer Colloquia (ISC) in Beijing every other year. During the last ISC, many participants suggested to have a narrower scope for the Vth ISC. After discussions with the Chinese Committees for IGBP, PSA, and WCRP, respectively, we decided to have the Vth ISC focused on the Variability of the Climate System and merged with GCAP to become its third Session.

In the last decade there were rapid advances in the study of the variability of our climate system, especially through the recognition of the strong air-sea interaction signals such as the El Niño and Southern Oscillation phenomena, and through the development of climate system models in which climate subsystems are coupled to each other. Many studies were also conducted to understand the climate variability in the Asian monsoon region. Session 3 of the Symposium of GCAP then provided an opportunity to review the progress, to exchange latest results, and to plan future climate research. About 60 papers were presented by scientists from different countries. The papers collected in this volume are the major portion of those presented at that Session.

We are immensely grateful to the Managing Editor of Theoretical and Applied Climatology, for the continuous efforts in making this special issue published. We are also indebted to Ms. Xuan Wang at LASG who helped in preparing all the manuscripts.

*Duzheng Ye  
Guoxiong Wu*