

PREFACE

This volume of *Annals of Glaciology* contains 87 papers presented to the Seventh International Symposium on Antarctic Glaciology (ISAG-7). Previous symposia in this series have been held at Helsinki, Finland (*IAHS Pub.* 55, 1961); Hanover, New Hampshire, USA (*IAHS Pub.* 86, 1970); Columbus, Ohio, USA (*Ann. Glaciol.* 3); Bremerhaven, Germany (*Ann. Glaciol.* 11); Cambridge, UK (*Ann. Glaciol.* 20); and Lanzhou, China (*Ann. Glaciol.* 29). The sponsor of these symposia has been the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR).

ISAG-7 was held at the University of Milano Bicocca, Milan, Italy on 25–29 August, 2003. Co-sponsors with SCAR, were the International Glaciological Society (IGS), the Italian Antarctic Research Programme (PNRA), the Italian Glaciological Committee (CGI), University of Milano-Bicocca (UNIMIB), Department of Environmental Sciences (DISAT), and the Italian Agency for New Technology, Energy and the Environment (ENEA). The local organising committee for the symposium was Giuseppe Orombelli (Chairman), Massimo Frezzotti and Valter Maggi. Financial support for publication of this volume was provided by the Italian Scientific Commission on Antarctic Research and by the Agency for the Environmental Protection of Lombardy.

There were 207 participants at the symposium, from 22 countries. Two hundred and eleven papers were presented, 109 as oral presentations and 102 as poster presentations. The 87 papers presented in this volume have all been refereed and edited in accordance with IGS's usual practices by an editorial committee consisting of Jo Jacka (Chief Editor), Gino Casassa, Massimo Frezzotti, Helen Amanda Fricker, Yoshiyuki Fujii, Per Holmlund, Vicky Lytle, Valter Maggi, Robert Mulvaney, Giuseppe Orombelli, Tas van Ommen and Wei Li Wang.

Along with ISAG-7, smaller workshops were conducted concerning the SCAR Standing Scientific Group on Physical Sciences Expert Groups on the International Trans Antarctic Scientific Expedition (ITASE), and Ice Sheet Mass Balance and Sea Level (ISMASS). There was also a meeting of a group of specialists on ice core collections for glaciological, cryobiological and climatological research (InterICE). There was a call from the symposium organisers for submitted papers to present results from SCAR programmes. As a result several of the papers in this volume do contribute to ITASE, ISMASS, READER (REFERENCE Antarctic Data for Environmental Research) and SALE (Subglacial Antarctic Lake Exploration). Further results from programmes contributing to ITASE and ISMASS have been presented to a SCAR symposium in July 2004, and will be published in *Ann. Glaciol.* 41.

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