

PREFACE

At the Fifth International Conference on Permafrost, held in Trondheim, Norway, in August 1988, a number of Working Groups of the International Permafrost Association (IPA) were established. One of these is the Working Group on Present Global Change and Permafrost (Chairman: Eduard A. Koster). The rationale for this Working Group is: to identify the effects and consequences of global changes in temperature and related variables upon the nature and extent of permafrost and periglacial processes within the framework of international programmes, which study the (potential) influences of future climatic changes on many aspects of the geosphere and biosphere.

At a Working Group meeting during the Fifth Canadian Permafrost Conference in Québec, Canada, in June 1990, it was decided to prepare a series of state-of-the-art papers on past, present and future interrelationships between climate change and permafrost. The collected papers in this special issue of *Permafrost and Periglacial Processes* are the outcome of this initiative.

Simultaneously with this collection of papers, an *Annotated Bibliography on Permafrost and Climate Change*, containing approximately 250 abstracts of relevant papers as well as extensive subject and author indexes, will appear. This bibliography, which has also been prepared under the auspices of the Working Group on Present Global Change and Permafrost, is available as a Canadian Geological Survey Open File Report (1993).

The Editors of *Permafrost and Periglacial Processes* are glad to assist in the publication of the results of this activity of the International Permafrost Association. We especially wish to thank Dr M. K. Gavrilova, Siberian Branch of the Permafrost Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, Yakutsk, CIS, for her great efforts in coordinating the contributions from the former USSR for this special issue.

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