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## Preface

Ice core data are more advantageous for understanding Earth's climatic history than other forms of data; this is because ice core records can be used to acquire paleoclimatic signals with high time resolution and to obtain detailed information about the atmosphere. However, for accurate interpretation of the paleoclimatic and paleoatmospheric data, researchers must pay careful attention to the various physical processes that can alter the properties of ice cores. In 1996, the International Commission on Snow and Ice (ICSI) gave its approval to the Physics of Ice Core Records (PICR) working group to promote international collaboration in research on ice cores. To help encourage detailed discussions on the physical processes, the PICR working group organized the 1<sup>st</sup> International Workshop on the Physics of Ice Core Records in Shikotsukohan, Hokkaido, Japan, on September 14–17, 1998, and published the book *Physics of Ice Core Records* (T. Hondoh, ed., Hokkaido University Press, Sapporo, 2000). Since then, significant efforts have been made to improve our knowledge of the physical processes associated with snow and ice that can affect climatic information contained in ice cores. To discuss the progress made in this decade and to decide the necessary steps to be taken to extract new paleoclimatic and paleoatmospheric data from ice cores, the Ice Core Research Group of the Institute of Low Temperature Science, Hokkaido University, organized the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Workshop on the Physics of Ice Core Records (PICR-2) in Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan, on February 2–6, 2007.

This supplement issue of *Low Temperature Science* includes the papers presented at the workshop and other contributed papers that were not presented at the workshop but were written by the authors invited to the workshop. All the papers included in this volume have been peer reviewed at least by two reviewers. I gratefully acknowledge the valuable comments made by the reviewers and hope that this volume will be of use for your research.

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