

Editorial

This issue of *Advances in Polar Science* exclusively contains papers that are about polar research programs and activities of countries in the Asian region. Although several Asian nations (Japan, India, China, Republic of Korea) have been involved in Antarctic research for more than 30 years, there is a new and growing interest in the Asian region in scientific activity in both the Arctic and Antarctic. The Asian Forum for Polar Sciences (AFoPS), established in 2004, is a regional consortium that aims to facilitate scientific research for the support and protection of polar environment, which has achieved multilateral research and logistics cooperation among Asian nations. The first paper in this issue, by A. Colombo, reviews the organisation, activities and achievements of AFoPs over fifteen years.

The other papers here present research results, from both polar regions, over a broad spectrum of natural science, ranging from investigation of the organic composition of Arctic sediments through to the possibility of terahertz observations of distant galaxies from the high Antarctic plateau. Some of these papers were first presented at the scientific sessions of 2017 and 2018 Annual General Meetings of AFoPs held in Shanghai and Xiamen during China's chairmanship of the Forum.

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