

PREFACE

Six years have passed since the first ocean-going research was performed in the Southern Ocean by Korean scientists. At this very moment, our 7th over-wintering party is carrying out their duties, including scientific observations, at King Sejong Station. We have just finished the Antarctic research expedition of 1993-1994 season; it is the 7th one. A substantial number of papers came out from the growing body of data. We are proud of the progresses we made in the past 6 years since Korea has initiated the national program for Antarctic researches.

Perception by human race of the diminishing harmony between themselves and the surroundings has increasingly installed many earth-observing programs, as we approach to the end of this century. Understanding of the Antarctic ecosystems and the roles of Southern Ocean in conjunction with the global systems recently became one of the major research objectives, particularly with the growing concerns about global environmental issues. Information from the sizable data currently available already indicated that the Southern Ocean and Antarctica are a crucial part of this planet.

This special volume of Korean Journal of Polar Research publishes the papers presented at the Third International Symposium on Antarctic Science. Most of the papers dealt with biological or environmental aspects of the Antarctic ecosystems. An ecosystem study would require years of effort and an input from a variety of scientific groups and fields. Although fragmented at present, the pieces of information we are collecting now will make valuable contributions in the future. It is certainly our hope that continued dedications to this rudimentary field of Antarctic science will formulate a new perspective in understanding the Antarctic ecosystem.

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