

## Forewords

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When encountering unexpected weather or conditions, consequences may be unfortunate, or, in the worst case, even severe and long-lasting. In order to promote public safety and to increase well-being in the society and the environment, the Finnish Meteorological Institute provides services based on high-quality observations and research data.

The international and Arctic dimensions are closely linked to all of our operations. Finland is one of the world's most northern societies with permanent settlements. Challenging natural conditions are familiar to all Finns.

In 2017, Finland celebrated its 100th anniversary. Our Institute, in turn, has a history of more than 180 years. It was founded in 1838 and first named as Helsinki Magnetic and Meteorological Observatory. In winter of 1890, the Central Meteorological Institute (Meteorologinen päälaitos) commenced snow observations at 20 sites. When these observations were in 1909 integrated with the Finnish Geographical Society's snow depth observations, the total number of stations then exceeded one hundred.

In order to enable the society to run its operations efficiently and despite the snow and freezing temperatures, there is a continuous need for weather observations, research and services to allow different actors to prepare for weather fluctuations. During Finland's two-year-long chairmanship of the Arctic Council (after USA's chairmanship and Iceland to follow us), we have especially wanted to raise awareness of Finland's knowledge and experience of the Arctic region, and the dramatic climate change, Arctic amplification, currently taking place.

The Arctic and Northern areas are experiencing an unprecedented and rapid climate change. To fully understand the ongoing changes and to prevent or slow down projected future changes, we must continuously observe and study sea ice, snow cover, ocean waters and ecosystems. The more we understand the implications of climate change, the better we can be prepared.

The national snow seminar on the day of Pyry (meaning blizzard in English) has the tradition, since 2009, of bringing together the snow related research and services in Finland. In my opinion, co-operation and free change of information are essential aspects in all success. In 2017, the Pyry snow seminar was officially included in the Prime Minister's Office's Finland100 Project on the centenary of Finland's independence. It was my great pleasure to welcome and open the Finland100 Anniversary snow seminar

at FMI, and to include these Forewords in this Pory100 special issue of Geophysica, a journal of the Geophysical Society of Finland, published since 1935.

I wish you all success in your snow related work and co-operation. It is said that if your effort works in the Arctic, it works anywhere. In the spirit of Finland100, I might add that if it works in Finland, it works anywhere.

*Juhani Damski, Director General, Finnish Meteorological Institute*