

Foreword

This issue is volume 48 (2012) of *Geophysica*. The first two papers are regular issue papers, and the four papers thereafter form a special issue of *The 38th Annual European Meeting on Atmospheric Studies by Optical Methods (38AM)*.

The 38AM meeting was held in Siuntio, Finland in 22–26 August 2011. It was planned and organized by the Finnish Meteorological Institute and Sodankylä Geophysical Observatory of the University of Oulu. This optical community has got together annually since 1973, and it is no more strictly a European event as regular guests from Canada and U.S. are participating to share the North-American news. These meetings play a crucial role in exchanging ideas and experience in the observation and analysis techniques, presenting scientific results, and planning joint measuring campaigns. Inter-calibration of available low-light reference light sources has also been included in the optical meeting activities. In 2011, a separate calibration workshop was agreed on during the meeting, and held in Sodankylä in October 2011.

The participants of 38AM came from 14 different countries. During the meeting 46 talks and 17 posters were presented. Especially, young scientists and students were encouraged to give presentations and chair sessions. We would like to thank the active attendance of all the meeting participants in Siuntio, authors and reviewers of the proceedings papers, as well as the Academy of Finland and the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies for their financial support. More information about the meeting is posted at <http://www.sgo.fi/38AM/>.

In addition to the studies published in the present issue of *Geophysica*, some 38AM proceedings papers are to appear in the EGU Open Access Journal of Geoscientific Instrumentation, Methods and Data Systems (GI) as they describe technical advances of the field.

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