

Foreword

The articles published in this special issue constitute a subset of papers presented at the International Symposium on Solar Terrestrial Physics (ISSTP) held in Pune, India during November 5 - 9, 2012. The purpose of the symposium was to review the current status of solar terrestrial physics and plan for future research programs. The symposium was held under the aegis of the Scientific Committee on Solar Terrestrial Physics (SCOSTEP), which is an interdisciplinary body of the International Council for Science (ICSU). SCOSTEP has been tasked with conducting long term scientific programs in Solar Terrestrial Physics. SCOSTEP also promotes Capacity Building activities in the form of International space science schools and public outreach activities.

SCOSTEP symposia highlight results from the primary scientific program running at the time of a symposium. ISSTP 2012 featured the results from the Climate and Weather of the Sun-Earth System (CAWSES) program, which concluded in 2013. India has been an active participant of the CAWSES program and the articles in this volume reflect CAWSES-India activities.

The symposium featured tutorial sessions, regular scientific sessions (oral and poster), and a panel discussion on the future scientific program of SCOSTEP. The scientific sessions covered the following topics: Solar interior, solar atmosphere, solar wind, interplanetary medium, magnetosphere-ionosphere-thermosphere coupling processes, atmospheric coupling processes, and space weather and climate. The papers included in this issue are from the scientific sessions. The papers went through the regular review process before accepting for publication. We thank the reviewers for their time and effort.

This SCOSTEP symposium was hosted by the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune. In addition to SCOSTEP and IISER Pune, the Symposium was co-sponsored by the International Space Weather Initiative (ISWI), the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, the Indian Institute of Geomagnetism, the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, IISER Kolkata, and the TIFR National Center for Radio Astronomy. We thank the host institution and all the sponsors whose generous support enabled many young scientists participate in the symposium.

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