Preface

This special issue is the outgrowth of the Japan-EISCAT Symposium on the Polar Ionosphere (JESPI) held in Toba, Japan, August 31–September 3, 1994. The symposium was co-sponsored by the Solar-Terrestrial Environment Laboratory of Nagoya University and the EISCAT Scientific Association. This issue contains 20 papers which were selected from the papers presented at the symposium with emphasis on the existing radars, particularly the EISCAT radar, and the Svalbard radar system under preparation.

The symposium was attended by more than 60 scientists from Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States, and a total of 59 papers were presented orally. The purpose of the Symposium was to promote Japan-EISCAT collaboration on the Svalbard radar project by bringing together scientists in the field of solar wind-magnetosphere-ionosphere-atmosphere interactions.

The editors of this volume would like to thank the following scientists, listed in alphabetical order, for refereeing the papers submitted for this special issue:

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The papers submitted for the special issue have been published in two parts: the first part appears in this issue, No. 8, and the second part in the succeeding issue, No. 9, in Volume 47.

We are pleased to report that the proposal for the Japanese contribution to the construction of a Svalbard radar antenna was approved by the Japanese government in May 1995 and, accordingly, that the Japan-EISCAT collaboration has now progressed to a new phase.

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