Preface

The International Geomagnetic Reference Field (IGRF) was introduced in the mid-1960s with the promise of it becoming the world-standard reference model for the Earth's main magnetic field. That promise has been realised, and it is with pleasure that we present this issue of the Journal of Geomagnetism and Geoelectricity devoted to the seventh generation (1995) revision of the IGRF. Related papers on modelling of the geomagnetic field using satellite data are included.

Most of the papers in this issue were presented at two symposia during the General Assembly of the IUGG held in Boulder, Colorado in July 1995—Symposium GA 514: *Global and Regional Magnetic Field Models and Charts* and Symposium GA512: *Analysis and Modelling of Low Earth Orbit Magnetic Survey Satellite Data with Respect to the Core, Crust, Ionosphere, and Induction*.

The IGRF is more than a geomagnetic reference field model as it epitomizes the benefits of international scientific cooperation and the free-exchange of information. Agencies from rich countries, that can run satellite missions costing millions of dollars and have access to large computers for sophisticated modelling, to the poorest, that may struggle to keep one magnetic observatory running and have only a hand-calculator, each have a key role to play and are mutually interdependent. Without their contributions, the IGRF would not have been created and would not have grown to reach its present prominence.

The IGRF is produced as a group effort by the International Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy (IAGA), Working Group V-8: *Analysis of the Global and Regional Geomagnetic Field and Its Secular Variation*. We thank the staff of magnetic observatories and survey organizations world-wide for providing the data on which the IGRF depends, the World Data Centers for data services, the producers of candidate models, those who participated in the evaluation of models, the authors and referees who contributed to this issue, and Terra Scientific Publishing Company for supporting our efforts to publicize the IGRF.

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(Guest Editors, IAGA Working Group V-8)