

## Preface to the Vol. 12, No. 1, 2017, “Sun and Geosphere”

Olga Malandraki, Guest Editor

### Special Issue: International Conference on ‘Solar Variability and its Heliospheric Effects’, Athens, Greece, 2-6 November 2015

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In this special issue of the International Journal “Sun and Geosphere”, papers presented at the International Conference “Solar Variability and its Heliospheric Effects”, which took place in Athens at the History Museum of the University of Athens, from 2-6 November 2015 (<http://www.space.noa.gr/bbc-sws/main/>) are published. All the manuscripts submitted to the editors were sent to anonymous international referees who made great efforts to review them and to improve the quality of the manuscripts. Only peer reviewed papers are included in this issue.

The conference was organized under the auspices of IAASARS of the National Observatory of Athens (NOA). This is the sixth conference organized in the frame of the Balkan, Black Sea, and Caspian Sea Regional Network on Space Weather Studies (BBC SWS), which comprises 11 countries i.e. Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia/Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Greece, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Turkey, and Ukraine (<http://www.bbc-spaceweather.org/>). The main goal of the conference was to bring together experts in different areas of Solar-Terrestrial Research, in order to obtain a comprehensive picture of the chain of events originating from the Sun affecting the Heliosphere and the Earth’s environment and climate.

The International Conference is focused on the following topics:

- Sun and solar activity
- Solar Wind and Heliosphere
- Solar Wind-Magnetosphere coupling
- Solar effects on the ionosphere, atmosphere and climate
- Space Weather monitoring instrumentation, Data and Services

The Scientific Organizing Committee (SOC) was:

- Olga Malandraki (IAASARS, National Observatory of Athens, Athens, Greece) - Chair
- Katya Georgieva (Space Research and Technologies Institute, Bulgaria) - Co-Chair
- Georgeta Maris Muntean (Institute of Geodynamics, Romanian Academy, Roumania) - Co-Chair
- Dragan Roša (Astronomical Observatory in Zagreb, Croatia)
- Vladimir Obridko (IZMIRAN, Moscow, Russia)
- Atila Özgüç (Kandilli Observatory, Turkey)
- Oleg Lytvynenko (Observatory URAN-4, Radioastronomical Institute, Odessa, Ukraine)
- Ashot Chilingarian (Cosmic Ray Division, Alikhanyan Physics Institute, Yerevan, Armenia)
- Elchin Babayev (Shamakhy Astrophysical Observatory, Shamakhy Astrophysical Observatory, Azerbaijan)

The Local Organizing Committee (LOC) from the National Observatory of Athens/IAASARS consisted of Olga Malandraki (Chair), Georgia Tsiropoula, Rositsa Miteva, Kostas Tziotziou.

The International Conference was attended by 45 scientists (Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Romania, Russia, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom, USA). A total of 35 papers were presented. Many young scientists and post-docs had the chance to participate.

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We thank the reviewers for their time and effort.

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