

Preface

Special Nordic Hydrology issue – Northern Research Basins

The 14th International Northern Research Basins Symposium/Workshop (NRB) took place in Kangerlussuaq (Søndre Strømfjord), Greenland, 25–29 August 2003. NRB is the only international conference specifically addressing northern hydrology and related ecological issues. The objective is to foster a better understanding of hydrological and ecological processes related to snow, ice and frozen ground. The first NRB workshop was organized in 1975. Special Nordic Hydrology/Northern Research Basins issues have been published since 1988.

It is generally agreed that the impact of climate change will be most significant in the sensitive and vulnerable arctic environment. In most studies the focus has been on climate variables alone, such as temperature and precipitation. The organizers of the NRB 14th International Symposium and Workshop felt that fluxes of matter also had to be included in the analysis of climate change impact in cold regions. Therefore the general theme of the symposium was “The role of high latitudes in global water balance and element budgets”, but as always papers on all aspects of northern hydrology were presented. A typical cross section of Greenland, from the Greenland Ice sheet to the Fiord was presented to the participants. The cross section exemplifies the transport patterns of water and suspended and dissolved matter in this environment.

Around 50 international scientists and local water and environment managers participated in the symposium and presented new results on the symposium’s theme. The contributions were collected in a symposium volume distributed at the symposium. The participants were given the opportunity to submit their presentation for this special issue to an ordinary reviewing process. It is believed that NRB’s cooperation with *Nordic Hydrology* through the publication of special issues contributes to a wider dissemination of knowledge about northern hydrology. The editors want to thank the reviewers for their meticulous work in evaluating the papers.

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