Preface

Special issue of Nordic Hydrology – 4th Study Conference on BALTEX

The 4th Study Conference on BALTEX was held in Gudhjem on the Danish island of Bornholm, between 24 and 28 May 2004. The conference was well attended and about 110 papers were presented within the themes: (1) Improved understanding of the water and energy cycle processes; (2) Trends and variability in the regional climate during the past two decades; (3) Development and validation of advanced modelling tools for regional climate studies; (4) Projection of future climate change at river catchment and basin scales during the 21st century; and (5) Applications for water resources management, long-term changes and studies on air and water quality.

This special issue contains ten papers that subsequently have been selected and reviewed according to the usual practice of the journal. Together they give an impression of the inter-disciplinary character of the conference and of the BALTEX programme in general. BALTEX (the Baltic Sea Experiment) is a Continental-scale experiment of GEWEX, the Global Energy and Water Cycle Experiment that is part of the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP). BALTEX has been defined to explore and model the water and energy cycles in the climate system of the entire catchment region of the Baltic Sea, including the sea. Recently, the programme has extended its scientific scope to include climate research as well as water and air quality issues. Although hydrology is one of the core disciplines within BALTEX, other disciplines such as meteorology and oceanography are also very important for the cross-disciplinary research efforts of BALTEX. Thus, the present issue contains papers beyond the usual scope of the journal. We hope the readers of *Nordic Hydrology* will appreciate this opportunity to gain insight in to energy and climate-related research in which hydrology is just one of the elements.

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