

Preface

The Regional Working Group of Northern Research Basins (NRB) was established in 1975 as part of the International Hydrological Program. The participating countries are the circumpolar ones: Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the USA. Countries with relevant research programs are eligible for associate memberships. The UK, Japan, Germany and Switzerland are loosely associated.

NRB was set up to foster research of river basins in high latitudes. The high latitudes include taiga, tundra and boreal forest ecosystems. The hydrological cycle of the high latitudes is dominated by snow, ice and permafrost. The main objectives of the NRB are: to gain better understanding of snow and ice processes and their influence on the hydrological regime; to provide data for development of transposable models and data for analysis and synthesis of hydrological processes; to assess and predict the influence of Man on the hydrological regime of northern environments; and to encourage exchange of personnel and information. The latter includes organization of NRB symposia 7 workshops every second year. The first NRB workshop was informally held in 1975 at the little village Edefors in northern Sweden. The symposia are open for all researchers with some limitations on the number of participants from each country. The 15th NRB Symposium / Workshop took place 29 August – 2 September 2005 in Luleå and at Kvikkjokk, again in the very north of Sweden. Since 1988 *Nordic Hydrology* has devoted a special issue for NRB.

About 40 international scientists participated in the 2005 symposium. All contributions were collected in Proceedings, which were distributed at the symposium. The participants were given the opportunity to submit updated versions of their presentations for this special issue of *Nordic Hydrology* and go through an ordinary reviewing process. It is believed that NRB's cooperation with *Nordic Hydrology* through publication of special issues contributes to a wider dissemination of knowledge about northern hydrology.

Editors of the special *Nordic Hydrology* – NRB issue

Lars Bengtsson

and

Annette Sémadeni-Davies