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On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the International Geophysical Year (1957-58), the year whose research can be said to have originated, the first International Workshop on Ionospheric Information was held at Novosibirsk, with the sponsorship of USSR, COSPAR and the USSR Academy of Sciences. The workshop was attended by 120 participants from 14 countries, and it was rare opportunity for them to discuss about 10 invited, contributed oral and poster papers, some of which were new and quite original.

The main topics for discussion included: development of the architecture of computer-driven systems specific to ionospheric information processing and summarizing; inter-relations of reference ionosphere models and the flux of observational data; ground-based and satellite-borne systems of digital ionospheric, incoherent scatter facilities and other means for real-time monitoring of the ionosphere; development of banks of ionospheric data; use of geoid and geophysical controlling parameters in systems for ionospheric data processing and reduction. With the growth of scientific information, the approach to any field of research with the help of informatics is the only possible way to bring the data, models and information on the ionosphere into a system which reflects the natural environmental system: the ionosphere.

Five recommendations adopted by the workshop were published in:

USSR Information Bulletin No. 241 (June 1987), p. 25-26

and in:

COSPAR Information Bulletin No. 115 (December 1987), p. 15-16.

Earl Fawer, Tamara Gulyaeva, Bodo Reinisch.

In behalf of all authors whose mother tongue is not very near to English, I like to emphasize the outstanding editorial work done by my colleagues Earl Fawer and Bodo Reinisch. Actually, both have rewritten most of the papers of the many Russian authors, thus greatly contributing to their value and facilitating their understanding.

Dear: Gulyaeva