

Preface

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Congratulations to the release of MAIRS special issue!

Monsoon Asia Integrated Regional Study (MAIRS), formally started from 2006, is an international research program focusing on the integrated study of human-monsoon interaction. Monsoon Asia region is characterized by diverse geography that includes the world's highest mountains and longest rivers. Significant fractions of these habitats are fragile for various reasons, including highly variable rainfall, frequent droughts and floods. In the same time, humans have extensively modified the landscape, sometimes maintaining significant levels of biodiversity and other ecosystem functions. The importance of Asian monsoon in the regional/global climate system pushed the MAIRS program become one of the regional studies in the ESSP (Earth System Science Partnership).

Following the successful workshop on START-ESSP (global change SysTem for Analysis, Research and Training-Earth System Science Partnership) Young Scientist Conference (6–8 November 2006, Beijing) and ESSP Global Change Open Science Conference (9–11 November 2006, Beijing), MAIRS SSC (Science Steering Committee) and IPO (International Program Office) decided to publish a special issue on *Advances in Atmospheric Sciences (AAS)* based on oral presentations and posters related to MAIRS studies from these two important conferences. In this MAIRS special issue, we chose the papers relevant to: historical climate change in monsoon Asia; landscape change in monsoon Asia and its relation with local/regional environment; human induced emission and its impact on the environmental change in monsoon Asia; driving forces of environmental change in monsoon Asia (social and natural); and integrated modeling study. The publication of MAIRS special issue will give more contributions of understanding the latest global change research in monsoon Asia region.

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