

Preface

The Pan Ocean Remote Sensing Conference (PORSEC), earlier known as the Pacific Ocean Remote Sensing Conference (PORSEC), was formed in 1992 to provide a venue for international cooperation in the increasingly important area of remote sensing of the ocean. Many countries that border the southern and tropical ocean are experiencing rapid “development”, the impact of which is significant on the oceans though difficult to quantify. The goal of PORSEC is to provide a common platform for scientists to discuss innovative applications for the newly available global satellite data sets. This is expected to lead to cooperation in studying ocean-related topics as diverse as air-sea interaction, fisheries, and pollution. It is hoped that through this cooperation, holders of satellite data meet and interact with holders of sea-truth data to the mutual benefit of both.

Since its formation, PORSEC has met in Okinawa (Japan), Melbourne (Australia), Victoria (Canada), Qingdao (China) and Goa (India). At the Goa conference, held during December 2000, two hundred and sixty two participants from thirty one countries attended. A substantial two volume proceedings (900 pages) containing one

hundred and ninety seven papers was published during the conference. This special edition is a compilation of selected papers from the Goa conference.

Section leaders from the conference selected papers for consideration of inclusion in this edition. Authors were asked to rewrite and expand their papers to conform to journal specifications. Of the one hundred and eighty papers presented at the conference, twenty one were selected and seventeen successfully made it through the review process. At least two experts have reviewed each paper.

The papers are evenly divided between applications of ocean color, wind and ocean dynamics, and modeling with satellite sensor (mainly microwave) data. Some of the presentations are of regional interest, while others will find an audience beyond the satellite remote sensing community. These first results through their simple presentation of observations and hypothesis could well contain the seeds of breakthrough science.

Sixty authors and thirty nine reviewers contributed to this effort. We thank them all.

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