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5th International Summer School for Students and Young Scientists "Natural and Human Environment of Arctic and Alpine Areas: Relief, Soils, Permafrost, Glaciers, Biota Life Style of Native Ethnic Groups in a Rapidly Changing Climate

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The fifth International Conference and Research-Educational Summer School for young scientists “Natural and human environment of Arctic and Alpine areas: relief, soils, permafrost, glaciers, biota and lifestyle of native ethnic groups in a rapidly changing climate”.

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S N Kirpotin

“Bio-Clim-Land” Center of Excellence, Tomsk State University, Tomsk, Russia

Abstract.

The Fifth International Conference and Research-Educational Summer School “Natural and human environment of Arctic and Alpine areas: relief, soils, permafrost, glaciers, biota and lifestyle of native ethnic groups in a rapidly changing climate”. The Conference and Summer School are dedicated to specially protected natural territories in Russia. It was started with the plenary session in the cosy city of Tomsk on 8 July. This famous cultural centre has been named “the Siberian Cambridge”. After plenary session, there were 3 days for the field excursion to the High Altai (1200 km South from Tomsk). This crossed different landscapes, such as south taiga, sub-taiga, forest-step, step, mountain taiga, mountain meadow, mountain tundra, glacial and periglacial areas. Participants observed different geographical provinces, such as West-Siberian Plain, Piedmont Altai, North Altai, High Central Altai and High South-East Altai. All this provided an opportunity to become acquainted with a great variety of landscapes, different types of reliefs and paleogeographical relics, well-expressed geological structures and evidences of earthquakes, amazing biodiversity in wild ecosystems, unique archaeological objects and the dynamic variety of nomadic populations. The main part of the School (6 days) was held at the Aktru Research Station of the National Research Tomsk State University. The Station was founded by M.V. Tronov, the distinguished scientist and Professor of the Tomsk State University, who is a founder of the Siberian Glaciological Scientific School. There were various field excursions as well as lectures at the Station and in its surroundings. Moreover, students and young researchers had a unique opportunity to participate in the real field research to study the tree-line shift and primary successions on deglaciated areas.

We would like to highlight and introduce the distinguished speakers of the Conference and Summer School. The keynote speakers of the Conference were Prof. Terrence Vincent Callaghan (University of Sheffield, UK), Prof. Sergey Kirpotin (Tomsk State University, Russia), Associate Professor Nel Werner (University of Fort Hare, South Africa), Associate Professor. Masayuki Kawahigashi (Tokyo Metropolitan University, Japan), Associate Professor Roberto Cazzolla Gatti (Tomsk State University, Russia), Prof. Alexey Rudoy (Tomsk State University, Russia), Prof. Andrey Babenko (Tomsk State University, Russia). Papers included to the Conference proceedings cover wide territory of Siberia between Arctic at the North and Altai Highlands area at the very South. They are useful to specialists who are engaged in fundamental and applied issues in the field of geomorphology, geochemistry,



hydrology, soil science, agriculture, security environment, rational nature management, as well as related areas.

We express our gratitude to the Scientific Committee, the local Organizing Committee and Tomsk State University for giving the opportunity to share scientific ideas, up-to-date developments at the Conference and financial support.