Preface

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The articles published in this special issue of *Sun and Geosphere* constitute a subset of papers presented at the United Nations/Japan Workshop on Space Weather "Science and Data Products from ISWI Instruments" held in Fukuoka, Japan during March 2-6, 2015. Also included are papers presented at the joint one-day "Solar-Terrestrial Environment Data Analysis Workshop" held in the same venue as the UN/Japan Workshop on March 4. The papers went through the regular review process before being accepted for publication. We thank the reviewers for their time and effort.

The primary purpose of the UN/Japan Workshop was to review the status of space weather instruments (in-situ, space-borne), data access, availability and collection and modeling efforts to advance space weather research and improve space weather forecasting. Another objective was to review the role of international cooperation and identify further opportunities for cooperation in the standardization, sharing and wider and timely use of data, including for operational purposes. The workshop also provides opportunities for information exchange concerning the potential deployment of new ISWI (International Space Weather Initiative) instruments in developing countries.

The workshop was attended by more than 120 participants from 33 countries. The workshop featured keynote talks, presentations in regular scientific sessions (oral and poster), and three panel discussions on the effective collection, distribution, and utility of data from ISWI instruments. The scientific sessions covered the following topics: weak solar activity in cycle 24, magnetosphere-ionosphere-thermosphere coupling processes, atmospheric coupling processes, Sun-to-Earth space weather modeling, and space weather awareness. We thank the scientific organizing committee for putting together a comprehensive scientific program.

This UN/Japan Workshop was hosted by the International Center for Space Weather Science and Education (ICSWSE) of Kyushu University. Many participants received travel support from funds provided by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, and the National Institute of Information and Communication Technology (NICT) of Japan. In addition, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA), Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and Japan (MEXT), Nagoya University, Tohoku University, ISWI Secretariat, the Scientific Committee on Solar Terrestrial Physics (SCOSTEP), and Fukuoka Convention and Visitors Bureau (FOCV) co-sponsored the workshop. We thank the host institution and all the sponsors whose generous support enabled many young scientists participate in the symposium. The official UN report of the Workshop is published under document number A/AC.105/1096 and can be retrieved from http://documents.un.org.

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