



From the Editor

Dear Readers and Authors,

We are happy to present you the final issue of 2021. This is the reason to look back of the year and make plans for the future. This year, similar to the previous ones, the subject area of the articles published in the journal covered a wide range of problems dealing with the various aspects of geological science: from prospecting and exploration of mineral deposits, building geoinformation models and making use of artificial intelligence potential to solving relevant problems of geophysics, engineering and exploration technology. Over the past years, the journal kept on covering the geological problems of Siberia and the Far East, and the territory of our closest neighbors, China and Mongolia as well. Throughout the year we continued to publish the articles of our foreign colleagues in English and Mongolian, which made it possible to significantly expand the geography of the territories discussed, the range of geological problems involved and the number of specialists interested in the works of the journal contributors.

We paid tribute to the anniversaries and memorable dates of outstanding researchers, published the most noteworthy scientific materials of major conferences, and related to the publications of challenging generalizing monographs. In its turn, the current issue of the journal contains not only in-depth articles based on the modern methods of geological science and practice, but also the analysis of the results of 90-year activity of the oldest Irkutsk department engaged in training of mining engineers. You can also get acquainted with the main content of the monograph of a large scientific team that reflects an unconventional view of the origin and development of the Earth.

In the run up to New Year the editorial board are wishing you very happy holidays and thanking the contributors for interesting topical articles, reviewers for thoughtful, professional analysis of materials, which helped us maintain a high content level of the journal and discuss the most relevant ideas. We wish you exciting geological routes, fruitful work, thumping scientific success and, of course, happiness: light, warm and different – that of the very personal kind that everyone is longing for in one's dreams, aspirations and hopes!

**Raisa Lobatskaya,
The Editor-in-Chief**