Preface

The Sino-German Radio Astronomy Conference was held in Xi'an between July 18th and 25th 2002. This conference was also a meeting of radio astronomy in China. The partner group of Max-Plack-Institut für Radioastronomie at National Astronomical Observatories of China took the responsibility for detailed organizations. The conference was focused on "Radio studies of Galactic objects, galaxies and AGNs", with 80 participants plus the 6 helpers. Most radio astronomers in China together with about 30 students enjoyed the fruitful discussions with 9 German senior scientists and 6 famous experts from other countries. In addition, the historical sites and culture environments specifically in Xi'an also attracted a dozen companions of delegates.

The SOC members, Prof. Richard Wielebinski (co-Chair, MPIfR), Shuhua Ye (co-Chair, Shanghai, China), Shouguan Wang (NAOC), Dr. Anton Zensus (MPIfR), Rendong Nan (NAOC), Ji Yang (Nanjing) recommended all invited talks, which were obviously the key for the success of the conference. The schedule was very full but students did have a chance to demonstrate their capability. The conference was so busy that in 7 days only Sunday was used to go through the 5000 years long history of China. Every evening a long seminar was specially prepared for the students. There were many sessions in the conference on molecular clouds, masers, interstellar medium, galactic magnetic fields, AGNs and their VLBI observations, pulsars *and* supernova remnants. Almost all areas of radio astronomy from telescopes and instrumentation to observations as well as theory have been hotly discussed.

The LOC members, Prof. JinLin Han (co-Chair), Mr. Yi Wang (co-Chair, NAOC), Mr. Guangren Ni (NTC) and Ms. Aiping Zhu and Huiqin Dong (NAOC), have contributed a lot to the detailed organization on food, hotel, meeting rooms and tourism trips. Besides the great success of the exchange scientific ideas, participants all enjoyed to visit the Museum of Qin Terra-cotta Warriors and Horses, Shaanxi Provincial History Museum, Forest of Stone Steles Museum, City Bell Tower, Big Wild Goose Pagoda, Li-Shan mountain, and to have multi-dumpling dinner and a hot spring bath. We could not forget the director of the National Time Center, Mr. Ji Guo, who organized all delegates to visit the NTC and hosted the foreign guests with warmest welcome and cold air in hot weather! The NTC also provided the e-mail connections and other help.

The conference was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation, National Astronomical Observatories, the Foreign-Affair Bureau of Chinese Academy of Sciences, the Key Radio Astronomy Laboratory as well as National Time Center, in various means respectively. The success of the conference results from the gathering of radio astronomers so that they enjoyed the new results from each other. The financial support from the NAOC and the Key Laboratory enables the students participating the meeting and getting in touch with famous scientists. We thank all participants for their contributions and the Editorial Office of Acta Astronomica Sinica for the help to publish the proceedings.

We especially thank the pioneer on Chinese radio astronomy Mr. Shouguan Wang who worked as a SOC member and had many valuable suggestions. Madam Ye worked as a co-Chair of the SOC and organized the grand demonstration of radio astronomy in China. She is very young though at the age of 75. She has impressed the participants by carefully listening to all talks from the beginning to the end. We dedicate these proceedings to her and also to Mr. Wang as a late gift for his 80th birthday just three weeks ago.

Editors: JinLin Han, Xiaohui Sun, Ji Yang, Richard Wielebinski
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