Welcome Addresses

Dear colleagues, guests and friends, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to Belogradchik, welcome to the First Meeting for young Astronomers!

It is a pleasure to welcome all our guests from Greece, Macedonia, Yugoslavia, Romania, Ukraine and Deutschland. I would like to thank everyone for coming. I would like also to thank our Local Organizing Committee for their efforts to organize this meeting and Dr.A.Antov in particular. Special thanks are due to the Mayor of Belogradchik, Mr Emil Tzankov. Let me gratefully acknowledge his support and friendly hospitality, which made this meeting possible. Our thanks are due also to our general sponsor Global Net and the other sponsors. The place Belogradchik was chosen, because here we have one of the observational facilities of our Institute of Astronomy – the Belogradchik Observatory (BO). The BO has a long tradition in Bulgarian astronomy and it was built in the 60-ties, even before the National Astronomical Observatory Rozhen. In the BO, active research is being carried out of stars, stellar clusters and galaxies.

This place is quite near to the border with Yugoslavia and I see a symbolic meaning in that: borders are no longer dividing people, but rather connecting people.

The main purpose of our meeting is to exchange results and ideas in astronomy. During the following days of our conference, we shall hear presentations by young astronomers from the Balkan countries, as well as more general reviews on astronomical achievements and possibilities for astronomical researches .

I hope, discussions during the conference will start new collaborations and new joint projects. Let us hope, this meeting will be the beginning of a good tradition.

Kiril P.Panov
Director of the Institute of Astronomy

Dear colleagues, Ladies and gentlemen,

The Belogradchik Astronomical Observatory keeps the tradition to be a host of a prestige international meeting. This time it is the Balkan meeting of young astronomers. It is ordinary that the Balkan countries organize regular meetings. The present Balkan meeting of young astronomers is a beginning of a perspective scientific collaboration, which has to be developed among our countries. The students of astronomy in Sofia University are active participants in this meeting. The Department of Astronomy of the Saint Kliment Ohridski Sofia University wishes to you fruitful scientific discussions on the astronomical problems during the first Balkan meeting of young astronomers.

Professor Georgi Ivanov
Head of the Department of Astronomy
of Sofia University

Dear astronomers,

I am pleased that we are together today and keep the traditions for organizing of the international astronomical symposiums, conferences and schools in our small and beautiful town.

The traditions keep the memory of the generations. The traditions kept also the Bulgarian people and the Bulgarian state.

You will have the wonderful possibility to carry out observations in our astronomical observatory, to get in contact with the Belogradchik sky and to register the results of your observations.

Under the Belogradchik sky is situated also a huge open-air natural museum – the Belogradchik Rocks. This is a fairy world of fascinating stone symphony and countless legends kept during the centuries. As if invisible hand in unknown time has created sculpture after sculpture, cut with great skill the rock forms in wonderful visions and after it people spiritualized them in "The Madonna", The Monks, The Schoolgirl", Adam and Eve", etc.

Here every stone, every rock speaks. You will experience extraordinary moments of eternity touching and feel the power of nature.

I wish the fruitful work and pleasant stay in our fairy town.

Emil Tsankov
Mayor of Belogradchik