

OPENING ADDRESS

Dear Colleagues,

It is a great pleasure and honor for me to inaugurate the conference *Astronomical Data Acquisition, Processing and Storage: Modern Facilities* in the framework of the JENAM assembly, and I would like to thank all of you who have accepted our invitation.

I think it is a great success that our meeting has been connected to a very representative and collective European Assembly where many new different achievements will be discussed. Since 1958, when the 10th IAU General Assembly was held in the new building of Moscow University, the JENAM meeting is the most outstanding astronomical conference here.

Personally for me, a second year student of the Moscow University, the 10th IAU General Assembly was the first international astronomical meeting I attended.

And I am very glad that now, after more than 40 years, we hold our Conference again at the Sternberg Institute, the Alma Mater of many Russian astronomers.

Many things have changed in the world during this time: large and powerful telescopes were constructed, many scientific space stations were launched. The acquisition, processing and storage of an extraordinarily growing amount of observational data demanded a wide use of modern computers together with the development of networks for information exchange. This gave a birth to the new branch of astronomy in which we work together.

An innovative and very important step in this field was taken by the creation in 1972 of the Astronomical Data Center (CDS) in Strasbourg. After some years, several associated centers were also founded in different regions of the world.

The Center for Astronomical Data (CAD) of the Astronomical Institute of Russian Academy of Sciences was formed as a branch of the CDS exactly 20 years ago. To date, it is the only regional astronomical data center for the Former Soviet Union republics and some East Europe countries.

Now the archive of the Center contains regularly updated astronomical catalogues received from CDS. Several well-known astronomical archives and database copies are also available. For instance,

a copy of the INES database installed at INASAN performs National Host activities. The CAD collaborates with many Russian astronomical institutions. It maintains, for example, a set of pulsar databases together with the Puschino Radioastronomical Observatory.

Seven astronomical institutions were connected to Internet as a result of the INTAS project "Integration of the FSU observatories into international astronomical data network". CDS and CAD were the coordinators of this project.

The CAD participates in the CDS activity related to the electronic publication of astronomical data published in the main Russian astronomical journals. The catalogues created by the colleagues working in the Center and other interesting results will be reported in our and other JENAM sections.

Our Center was the first one to hold several international conferences, and I am very happy that now it is one of the organizers of this Conference.

I welcome all of you, wishing our meeting to be very interesting and productive. Let this colloquium give rise to new fruitful scientific and friendly contacts.

Olga Dluzhnevskaya

Director of CAD,
Co-chairman of the Scientific Organizing
Committee