

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

When thinking about yet another “Science with the GTC” meeting, we faced the challenge of organizing the meeting at Santa Cruz de La Palma. There were many reasons for it besides the fact that it is a beautiful city. The basic reasons are twofold, first the “Science with the GTC” meetings had visited several places in the world but not yet “the Place”, the island of La Palma. We were thus obliged and thrilled to bring the science business home, to the Canary Islands, and to La Palma in particular. The second big reason, together with preparing the meeting there was a plan – to be revealed at the end as a surprise – to honour Francisco Sánchez in a science meeting and by scientists. For that Santa Cruz de La Palma was ideal, and los Palmeros knew how to keep a secret. A nice complicity thrived until the very end. Thanks.

To achieve our plan the will of many institutions and persons was needed. The Cabildo Insular and Ayuntamiento de Santa Cruz immediately shared our challenge and helped us with all the resources at their hands. We would like to explicitly mention Julio Cabrera, who took a personal role in helping us from his position as Consejero de Turismo.

We had another man in the island, a crucial one, Juan Carlos Pérez Arencibia. His help was essential. His *savoir-faire* and kindness made the work of organizing the meeting, with the very many visits to La Palma and working encounters, a real pleasure.

At the “Circo de Marte”, the beautiful conference room we had at our disposal, the help of Quique (José Francisco Hernández) and Francisco Álvarez made the experience even more unforgettable. We thank both the IAC Multimedia Service and the Gabinete for their support before and during the meeting with their valuable know how. A big thanks is due to the scientists participating in the meeting. We hope you enjoyed the meeting as much as we enjoyed having you around.

Our deepest acknowledgement to the further Very Important Scientists (VIS) that, in spite their many commitments left everything to join us for the “Fiesta para Paco Sánchez”. You did your best for the success of the event and you really managed to make it unique. Thanks to all of you!

Finally, just because they are part of the family, thanks to Merche Franqueira, to Natalia Ruiz, and to Campbell Warden for having been with us. They managed to cope with our “ever changing” ideas and adapt to the different situations that arosed during the more than one year that it took us to assemble the astronomical community to one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

Casiana Muñoz-Tuñón and José Miguel Rodríguez-Espinosa