

PREFACE

From October 3-8, 2016, Cartagena de Indias was host of the XV Latin American Regional IAU Meeting. This is the most important meeting in the Latin American astronomy and astrophysics community and was an important milestone for Colombia as a recent member of the International Astronomical Union. In 2016 Colombia hosted a significant number of international events in astronomy: Communicating Astronomy with the Public (May 16-20, Medellín), II Latin American School on Teaching Science and Astronomy (May, 25-27, Santiago de Cali), Dynamical Astronomy in Latin America - ADeLA (September 28-30, Bogotá), Latin American Regional IAU Meeting - LARIM (October 2-7, Cartagena de Indias), IAU Symposium 327 on Fine Structure and Dynamics of the Solar Atmosphere (October 9-15, Cartagena de Indias), I Seminar on Practical Teaching of Astronomy NASE (October 11, Bogotá), III International Congress on Astrobiology (October 18-22, Manizales).

Regarding LARIM, it has a rich history in Latin America. In 1978, Santiago, was the first city to host this meeting, followed by Mérida (Venezuela, 1981), Buenos Aires (1983), Rio de Janeiro (1984), Mérida (México, 1986), Gramado (1989), Viña del Mar (1992), Montevideo (1995), Tonantzintla (1998), Córdoba (2001), Pucón (2005), Isla Margarita (2007), Morelia (2010), and Florianópolis (2013). After LARIM 2016 in Colombia, once more, Chile will host the meeting in Antofagasta (2019). The Colombia candidature for the XV LARIM was gained, for the first time, in the XIV Regional Meeting held in Florianópolis, (2013), and was a great honor and high responsibility to organize it. The aims of the LARIM Cartagena 2016 were to:

- Promote and highlight recent, high-impact research that is carried out in Latin American research institutes and universities,
- Provide networking opportunities and promote collaboration with other colleagues who are actively working in the fields of astronomy and astrophysics worldwide,
- Strengthen exchanges, through internships or scholarships, of students in masters and doctoral programs, from the countries of the region, and
- Support projects and initiatives that increase the involvement and visibility of women in the astronomical community, especially in leadership roles.

More than 375 people, between participants and attendants, were met in the LARIM 2016, coming from: Afganistán, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Ecuador, United States, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Japan, México, Netherlands, Perú, Puerto Rico, Spain, South Africa, United Kingdom, Uruguay and Venezuela. The LARIM Cartagena 2016 was held in the Cartagena Convention Center. All the conferences and activities were developed in the Getsemaní Auditorium and in three rooms for parallel sessions, all of them with high-quality audio and video facilities; we also used the Foyer hall for poster exhibition. There were had seven reviews, sixteen invited talks, 170 oral short presentations, and 43 posters exhibited daily.

The topics of the meeting, following the IAU Divisions, were: A. Fundamental Astronomy, B. Facilities, Technologies and Data Science, C. Education, Outreach and Heritage, D. High Energy Phenomena and Fundamental Physics, E. Sun and Heliosphere, F. Planetary Systems and Bioastronomy, G. Stars and Stellar Physics, H. Interstellar Matter and Local Universe and J. Galaxies and Cosmology. On Wednesday 5th, in the afternoon, the participants had the opportunity to choose between having free activities in the city, or participating

in any of the workshops: Dissecting the Universe in 3D: An Introduction to the analysis of astronomical data cubes, Astronomy for Development, and Radio Astronomy, introduced by us as a new activity in the meeting schedule. We greatly thank the effort of organizers and participants in this workshops. Furthermore, and as part of the Commission C1 Astronomy Education and Development activities and in particular of the objectives of the Astronomy for Equity and Inclusion Working Group, LARIM hosted a one-day workshop on October 8, entitled “Astronomy Beyond the Common Senses for Accessibility and Inclusion”. This was an interdisciplinary workshop with participation of astronomers, educators and disability specialists, that provided an opportunity to develop new strategies, work toward specific objectives, share experiences and discuss recent applications developed for audiences with disabilities. The program included a total of 17 oral presentations and a discussion session.

The LARIM Scientific Organizing Committee was conformed by: Santiago Vargas, Chair of SOC (NAO, Colombia), Roberto Cid Fernandes (UFSC, Brazil), Guillermo Bosch (UNLP, Argentina), Zulema Abraham (IAG/USP, Brazil), Octavio Valenzuela (UNAM, Mexico), David Ardila (Caltech, USA), Gustavo Bruzual (UNAM, Mexico), Gladis Magris Crestini (CIDA, Venezuela), Paulina Lira (U de Chile, Chile), Juan Rafael Martínez (CfA, USA), Tabaré Gallardo (U de la R, Uruguay) and Andreas Reisenegger (PUC, Chile).

The Local Organizing Committee was coordinated by: Mario Armando Higuera Garzón, (Chair, Observatorio Astronómico Nacional, Universidad Nacional de Colombia), Jaime Forero (Universidad de los Andes), Juan Carlos Muñoz Cuartas (Universidad de Antioquia), Javier Montoya (Universidad de Cartagena), Luis Núñez (Universidad Industrial de Santander), Rigoberto Casas (Universidad Nacional de Colombia) and Edwin Andrés Quintero (Universidad Tecnológica de Pereira). The external Support Committee was conformed by: Leonardo Pachón, Giovanni Bernal, César Alonso Valenzuela, José Armando Rueda, Carlos Augusto Molina, Andrés Balaguera A., and Juan Camilo Ibañez.

The Workshop of Astronomy for Equity and Inclusion was organized by Wanda Díaz (OAD, South Africa), Beatriz García (IReDA, Argentina), Amelia Ortíz (University of Valencia, Spain), Santiago Vargas (NAO, Colombia), Lina Canas (OAD, Japan), Nicolas Murphy (SAO, USA), Angela Pérez (Planetario de Medellín, Colombia).

The convention center logistic team was conformed by: Giovanni Romero (web master), Andrés Felipe Granados and Juan Camilo Rodríguez (application developers), Martha Chacón (graphic designer), Marleny Rincón López, Martha Janeth Angarita, Seditsira Quintero, Beatriz Helena Cogollo, Juan Sebastian Castellanos, José Iván Campos, Erika Hernandez, Juan Camilo Buitrago, Javier Sánchez, Wilmar Fajardo, Zaida Milena Castillo, Juan Sebastián Lozano and Juan Camilo Guevara.

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“LARIM Cartagena 2016. Un evento de nosotros, para nosotros”. Thanks to all.

Mario Armando Higuera Garzón and Santiago Vargas Domínguez