

PREFACE

Since 2001, the ADeLA (Astronomía Dinámica en Latino-América) meetings have taken place every 2-3 years, in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, and Venezuela. This edition in Bolivia was awaited for the ADeLA community for a long time, since one of our goals is to effectively reach every country where Astrometry is done in one way or another.

In its eighth edition, ADeLA was held in Tarija from October 22nd to 26th 2018, hosted by the Observatorio Astronómico Nacional and the Universidad Autónoma Juan Misael Saracho, and included a three-day workshop titled “Fundamentals of Astrodynamics and Astrometry Applied to Space Debris”. ADeLA summons together researchers from Latin American countries and beyond, to share their recent research and discoveries, to evaluate the state-of-the-art, and to seek possible collaborative and funding opportunities in the areas of astrometry and dynamical astronomy, including ground and space-based astrometric techniques (trigonometric parallaxes, proper-motions, reference systems, catalogues), optical interferometry techniques, Galactic structure, solar system studies, among others.

The scientific organizing committee included Carlos Abad, Christine Allen, Felicitas Arias, Alejandro García René Méndez, Ricardo Podestá, Gonzalo Tancredi, Ramachrisna Teixeira, William van Altena, Katherine Vieira and Rodolfo Zalles (chair). The local organizing committee was chaired by Rodolfo Zalles, and included Pavel Balderas, Roberto Condori, Filimon Martínez and Ismael Cuellar, all members of the Observatorio Astronómico Nacional of the Universidad Autónoma Juan Misael Saracho, in Tarija. Additional logistic support was given by Agencia Boliviana Espacial, Gobierno Autónomo Departamental de Tarija, Gobierno Autónomo Municipal de Tarija, and Casa de la Cultura de Tarija.

Nearly 30 astronomers and graduate students from various countries spanning South and North America, Europe and Asia, attended the meeting. A total of 7 invited talks, 10 contributed talks and 5 posters, were presented. The Gaia Data Release 2 certainly was a key feature of the meeting, but this time Astrodynamics featured prominently given the long history of the Observatorio Astronómico Nacional of Bolivia, located in Tarija, in the observational follow-up of satellites and space debris. Many other aspects such as ground-based astrometry, Galactic astrophysics, stellar astrophysics, geodesy and statistical tools, were covered on the talks and posters presented. Taking advantage of the meeting, a public talk was given at Casa Dorada by Katherine Vieira (Joyas del Universo). The audience included secondary schoolers, undergraduate students and general public.

We want to thank the generous support of the institutions that made possible the VIII ADeLA meeting. Our sincere thanks to the Chinese Academy of Sciences South America Center for Astronomy CASSACA and the Instituto de Astronomía, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, for all the work involved in the publication of these proceedings, as well as for providing partial financial support for them. Finally, we are very grateful to the ADeLA community for the success of this ADeLA 2018 meeting. All of us are invited to meet in the next ADeLA edition that will return to Colombia, in 2021.

Katherine Vieira, René Méndez, and Rodolfo Zalles
Editors of the proceedings