

Introduction

Editorial board *

NAS RA V. Ambartsumian Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO)

For many years Armenia had leading positions both in astronomy (Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO), Viktor Ambartsumian, Beniamin Markarian and other Armenian astronomers) and space technology (Grigor Gurzadian, Hrant Tovmasyan). Particularly, Gurzadyan designed, developed and prepared the first Soviet space observatories, “Orion” and “Orion-2”. Soviet cosmonautics training courses were organized in BAO in 1970-1980s. BAO had and now restored the Department of Applied Astronomy. Currently, on a contractual basis with Russian Space Agency “Roscosmos”, BAO participates in a project to monitor the space debris, according to which 3 small telescopes have been installed in BAO Saravand station. It is also worth noting that Virtual Observatories are of great importance in modern astronomy, when research is performed using all telescopes, different times, different modes, and the results of observations at all electromagnetic waves. The Armenian Virtual Observatory (ArVO) is part of the International Virtual Observatory Alliance (IVOA) and also participates in the International Planetary Data Alliance (IPDA), where space agencies of the major countries are members.

Today, the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO) hosts a number of medium-size optical telescopes, the most important being the 2.6 m classical telescope and 1 m Schmidt telescope and is an important observatory with modern facilities in the region. Furthermore BAO has several departments related to inter- and multi- disciplinary sciences, such as the research departments of Astrochemistry, Astrobiology and Exoplanets, High-Energy Astrophysics, Astroinformatics, and Archaeoastronomy and Cultural Astronomy. And that is why, in this year the International conference “Space Sciences and Technologies” was organized and successfully held.

The main objectives of this meeting of representatives of various scientific fields are the exchange of information and discussion of the latest achievements in astrophysics and instrumentation necessary for astronomical observations. The prospects for combining the efforts of representatives of such scientific disciplines as astrophysics, chemistry, biology, programming, etc. were also actively discussed.

Symposium Topics

- Space Sciences and Space Astronomy
- Multiwavelength Astronomical Surveys, Catalogues, Archives and Databases
- Exoplanets and Planetary Science
- Virtual Observatories and Astroinformatics
- Space Technologies
- Interdisciplinary and Multidisciplinary Sciences

This issue of “Communications of BAO” includes the proceedings presented on the International conference “Space Sciences and Technologies”. All the papers passed relevant peer-review

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