

WELCOME ADDRESS TO THE 2010 CANARY ISLANDS WINTER SCHOOL

Good morning (authorities) ladies and gentlemen.

In the name of the Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias, it is a great pleasure for me to welcome you all to the nice island of Tenerife and to this CANARY ISLANDS Winter School on "AsteroSeismology"

The aim of this Winter School is to provide students with knowledge and understanding of the theory, analysis and observational characteristics of AsteroSeismology, focusing on the new advances that it provides in the domains of stellar structure, dynamics and evolution.

To achieve these goals, the WS lectures will be given by eight eminent and experienced scientists who are actively working on a variety of forefront research projects, and who have played a key role in major advances over the recent years. (*Three of you perfectly know the dynamics of the Canary Islands winter school because you assisted as students in past editions; Profs. S. Basu and M. J. Monteiro in the year 1994 and Prof. J. Christensen-Dalsgaard in the first CIWS*) I would like to take this opportunity to extend the warmest thanks to all the professors for having agreed to come and participate in the School with you this year.

The present school, organized by Dr. P.L. Pallé, is the 22nd edition of the THE CANARY ISLANDS WS. Since the first school in 1989, that was devoted to Solar Observations, to the present one, the school has focussed on many different subjects in Astrophysics from Planets to Cosmology. And, in accordance with the instrumental and observational aims of the IAC, a significant number of schools have been dedicated to recent developments and techniques related to Astrophysics, like Infrared Astronomy, Spectropolarimetry, Space Missions or 3D Spectroscopy.

The principal reason for celebrating these WS at Tenerife is the high quality of the atmosphere above the Canary Islands (only comparable to that of a few places around the world) that has motivated the development of the international observatories. Therefore, the visit to Roque de los Muchachos and Teide observatories is another activity that has always been included in the WS. All of you will have the opportunity to visit the GTC, which is the world's largest optical-infrared telescope.

During the last 21 years more than 1250 students and 170 lecturers have been involved in the schools. Students and Lecturers come from more than 26 different nations worldwide. As a curiosity, this year you are 35 students from 17 different nationalities. And 8 professors, from 6 different countries.

One of the most successful features of the CANARY ISLANDS WINTER SCHOOLS has been the opportunity for the students to spend time with the lecturers both in formal and informal circumstances. This has provided the kernel in the past for many lasting collaborations and I'm sure that if you take the initiative to discuss, not only the topics of their lectures, but also your own research interests with them, this will also prove true in your own cases.

As you know your programme includes the opportunity to visit not only the Observatories but also our Institute in La Laguna and I hope that this will only be the first of many occasions on which you will be able to get to know us, our research programs and facilities.

I want to finish by giving thanks to the Government of the Canary Islands, Cabildo de Tenerife, The La Laguna Municipality and the Spanish MICINN for their support to the present WS.

All of us at IAC are at your service. Once again, a very warm welcome!

Carlos Martínez, Deputy Director of the Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias