

Preface

One particular advantage of editing something is that one has to read it from cover to cover. For the Proceedings of the International Astronomical Union Colloquium 183 on Small-Telescope Astronomy on Global Scales, this advantage has been well rewarding. The meeting took place during January 4 to 8, 2001 at the very southern tip of Taiwan, in the Kenting National Park. Some one-hundred and sixty people, from more than 20 countries, attended the meeting in which, beautiful beaches notwithstanding, the science by, and emerging technology on, small telescopes—with emphasis on global networking and time/sky monitoring—were reported and discussed.

We would like to express our gratitude for the authors who turned in their manuscripts in a timely fashion, in response to our policy to expedite the publication process, and for their patience in our pestering about deadlines and editing changes. These Proceedings collect 75 papers presented during the meeting, the abstracts of which, along with the conference group photo, can be found on the conference website www.astro.ncu.edu.tw/iauc183/.

We thank the faculty and the graduate students of the National Central University for their enduring help before and during the meeting. Without them, the meeting would not have been successful, or even possible. We are also grateful to Debbie Nester for proofreading the manuscripts, Peggie Cheng, Kelly Chen, and Jessica Chen for their clerical assistance, and Chan-Kao Chang for designing the conference poster which, instead of the stereotype dark or deep blue background color, carries a delight tone of sky and ocean blue.

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Wen Ping Chen
Claudia Lemme
Bohdan Paczyński

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