

Good afternoon, dear participants, dear distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

The General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union is first time hold in China since the Chinese Astronomical Society join IAU in 1935. During the past days, near 3,000 astronomers from more than 70 countries or regions have gathered in Beijing, exchanging the latest progresses in all fields of astronomy, and discussing the future development of astronomy worldwide. This is a great event in the history of Chinese astronomy, and it will for sure have a profound impact on the development of Chinese astronomy, and promote and expand the international collaborations.

Many people have made enormous efforts in planning, preparing for, and organizing this General Assembly, and at this special moment, please give me the honor to express my sincere appreciations to the following:

Thanks to the IAU, for the first time, allowing us the opportunity to hold such an important astronomical event in Beijing, China.

Thanks to all participants, you sitting here or those not sitting here, for your sincerely supporting us and for your warmly joining us in all the programs.

Thanks to CNCC for your professional service and friendly work during the assembly.

Thanks to all sponsors, exhibitors and partners for your generous supports to this General Assembly.

Thanks to all MCI colleagues as our PCO, who have assisted this General Assembly with their heart and energy.

Thanks to all the volunteers for your careful working and warm services at the registration and conference rooms. Your early arrival and late departure, your friendly smile and genuine help have made the assembly a warm family for all participants. Let's welcome them to stage!

Thanks to the medical supporting staff, especially Dr. Sheng Haiying, who have also contributed a lot to the General Assembly. In past days, they have kindly treated about 80 participants who were not feeling well, and helped relieve their symptom efficiently. Please invite them to stage!

Thanks to the supporting staffs of the website and network team led by Dr. Cui Chenzhou, which set up and maintain the website of the General Assembly and the WiFi system. The webpages have been visited more than 750,000 times during the last one year. 120,000 requests have been connected to the WiFi system during the last 8 days, with maximum concurrent connection number of 1000 on August 23. Please welcome them!

Thanks to the newspaper team led by Prof. WANG Jinxiu. Altogether they have published 10 issues, with a total of 68 pages. For the seemingly “small” pages, the editorial team worked till late night every day, sometimes even till 2 hour in the morning. Let’s invite them to stage!

Last but not least, thanks to all my colleagues, LOC members, for your hard working and close cooperating all these months in the past years. It is only because all your efforts and devotion, the IAU 28th General Assembly can be going so well and so exciting until now. Now, please join me with the warmest applause to invite all LOC members to stage!

Thank you, everyone on the stage, and at the audience, or those staffs and participants who are not here. Your enthusiasm, devotion and supports have made this general assembly a successful, enjoyable, and great event! Thank you very much!

Gang ZHAO

Co-Chair of LOC, IAU XXVIIIth GA