

Foreword

The 4th French-Chinese meeting on solar physics, was held in Nice (France), in November 2011, it was aimed at stimulating scientific collaborations between groups and Institutes of the two countries, by discussing projects of common interest.

French and Chinese solar scientists have been pursuing a long-term collaboration, since the first French-Chinese meeting held in Xian (1999). The 3rd French-Chinese meeting was held in Shanghai in November 2005, and a SMESE workshop was organised in Paris in March 2008.

The micro-satellite project SMESE deepened and broadened an already close cooperation between solar physicists in the two countries, which continues with common research programs on THEMIS, in solar radio astronomy, and space projects including Kuafu and others. China has recently built a radioheliograph and a 1meter-class solar telescope with spectropolarimetric facilities. The experience acquired by French solar scientists through the construction and operation of the Nançay Radioheliograph and the THEMIS Telescope on the Canary Islands has contributed to a fruitful exchange on aspects of both the instrumentation and the scientific context. Site testing in Antarctica is carried out by the two countries at Dome A and Dome C, respectively, for solar observations. Studies on Solar-terrestrial relations are also developed in both countries, through radio observations and the monitoring of solar radius and irradiance by the CNES microsatellite PICARD. And finally, there is persisting interest to pursue space activities that were developed during the successful phase 0 and phase A study for SMESE.

These instrumental common interests, together with extensive work on the interpretation and modelling of solar dynamical processes, where both countries have complementary expertise, have been extensively debated during this 4-day meeting. Seven scientific sessions, coffee breaks and social events have allowed many stimulating discussions and exchanges among the 77 participants. We thank all the participants and the Scientific Organizing Committee.

We are also very grateful to our sponsors, namely, the Programme National Soleil-Terre of the CNRS, the University of Nice-Sophia Antipolis, the Observatoire de la Côte d'Azur, the Fizeau and Cassiopée laboratories, and the National Natural Science Foundation of China, who have all contributed to the success of this meeting.

The meeting was dedicated to the memory of our colleague Jean Arnaud, director of the Fizeau Laboratory, who visited China in May 2010. He was very enthusiastic with his starting collaboration with Chinese colleagues on spectropolarimetric projects. He dramatically passed away in September 2010.