

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

From the first moment I was nominated as the chair of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) of the International Symposium on Solar Physics and Solar Eclipses (SPSE 2006), I realized with my LOC colleagues the great challenges we were going to have, in particular with the time and the place where we planned to organize the symposium: Waw an Namos. That was the region the scientific committee chose as the best location to observe the total solar eclipse event and to gather the scientists from all over the world for the symposium as well. Waw an Namos is in the middle of the Libyan Sahara desert where no infrastructure is available, specially the electric power, water and communication, in addition it is difficult to reach the area by normal transportation means. On the other hand, we were very restricted from the point of view of the time of the eclipse and there was no way to change or even shift this event. At the same time, these challenges gave us the power to work hard to overcome the problems we faced, to ensure the success of the symposium and to achieve our goals. Indeed, this symposium was unique in its subject, time and place. It has been a great honor to organize this meeting in parallel to such a special event as a total solar eclipse; it was indeed the first time that this was done in Libya.

Besides all of our efforts, we received the full support from the president of Sebha University, which we appreciate and acknowledge very much. We thank also the Winzrik Company for the work they did to overcome the difficulties of accommodation in such a remote area.

As a conclusion I see this meeting as a special new experience for all the staff at Sebha University. Moreover, it was a new beginning toward a closer international scientific collaboration in these new fields of solar physics and solar energy sciences. Indeed all measurements, the time and location of the meeting, represented a big challenge, and at the end all was a great success.

Ahmaid O. Zaidan