

CONCLUSIONS OF THE SYMPOSIUM

The International Symposium on Solar Physics and Solar Eclipses (SPSE 2006) was a great success. A large number of prominent scientists from all over the world came with complex equipment to carry out advanced scientific experiments and take part in a high-quality conference on both solar physics and solar energy utilization. The observing conditions and infrastructure support at the eclipse camp near Waw an Namos were excellent. Here is a brief summary of some of the main results:

- 94 scientists from 11 countries took part in the symposium with a series of high-level talks on topics from history of astronomy, eclipse observations, coronal and space physics, fundamental physics, instrumentation, and solar energy utilization. This attendance on such a remote site in the midst of the Sahara desert exceeded the original expectations.
- The symposium brought together, for the first time, scientists representing the two disciplines of solar physics and solar energy utilization.
- The conference concluded that Libya, with its sunny climate, large land space and low population density is in a unique position in the world to develop the almost untapped source of solar energy. In view of the end of the oil era within the coming decades a major shift from fossil fuels to sustainable energy is urgently needed, and solar energy is the key ingredient in a sustainable energy future.
- A number of advanced scientific experiments from different countries and with different scientific aims were carried out with great success, giving unique new insights about the Sun.