

## Closing Speech

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Dear Participants,

There is a beginning and there is an end. Today marks the end of the colloquium which has lasted for 5 days. However, it is my understanding that it is only the beginning of a long journey into a new scientific enterprise or, rather, scientific culture in which we are all required to commit our thought and energy. Please accept my apology for not having been here all the time. You may accuse me for my ignorance. Unfortunately, one can not occupy two spatial locations at the same time. This is a basic law in physics and I cannot do much about it. I have, though, followed your activities indirectly. So, I was told, you were excited about new instrumentation for the Schmidt Telescopes. Advantages and disadvantages of employing CCDs were contrasted to the existing photographic material. Studies of stellar populations, merging of galaxies and stellar variable phenomena will occupy astronomers for many years to come. This is great. From my point of view, as a provider and a vehicle for science and technology, I assure you I will support science in any way I can, and express my hope that the stimulating and exciting discussions of the past few days will bring about new scientific culture.

I have also learned that despite your busy schedule you have kindly put aside your time for the general public. Two general lectures to the public, as part of this colloquium, will be recorded as a kind gesture in which astronomers shared with the rest of population, the joy of looking at the universe. For many of us the universe is a black box. But it is actually an active machine producing all kinds of energy and colours. Thank you very much to the speakers.

It was distressing news to learn that some of you had, perhaps because of food problems, to seek medical advice. Travelling and seeing other cultures, including gastronomic entertainments, have become easy nowadays. Unfortunately our biological ability to adapt to new surroundings are not always that simple. Different bacteria, not necessarily bad, can cause stomach discomfort. I sincerely hope that you who have had trouble, are now completely healed and happy to face going back home. Allow me to express my hope that our minimal ability to provide everybody with the comfort you are usually accustomed to, has not produced more inconvenience.

We have tried to combine our efforts to make this meeting worthwhile. The time has come for me to now officially announce the meeting closed.

Wiranto Arismunandar  
Rector