

The message of Professor S. M. Abtahi, President of Isfahan University of Technology, for the opening session of ICRANet-Isfahan Astronomy Meeting, Nov. 3rd,2021

In the name of God

Dear scholars and scientists, honorable guests, Ladies, and Gentlemen;

Good Morning

On behalf of Isfahan University of Technology, it is my great pleasure to welcome and thank the eminent speakers and all the participants today for the three-day ICRANet-ISFAHAN Astronomy Meeting. I would also like to sincerely thank the organizers of this event, the Director of the International Centre for Relativistic Astrophysics Network, Professor Remo Ruffini, and his colleagues and also our colleagues at IUT Department of Physics.

Astronomy is one of the earliest sciences in the world and historical records of astronomical measurements date back to about 5000 years ago. IRAN, since centuries ago, has been among the first countries to develop this science. Ancient astronomy in Iran has created a solid ground for modern research work in Iranian universities and research centers.

Isfahan University of Technology, as one of the leading universities in Iran, was founded about 40 years ago. Today, IUT is ranked among the top Asian Universities by International standards. IUT has 14 departments with about 11000 students and 600 faculty members and offers four disciplines of engineering, basic sciences, agriculture, and natural resources.

Isfahan University of Technology was the first Iranian institution that signed an agreement with ICRANet in 2016. Since then, we have enjoyed many collaborations such as exchanging students and faculty members. We have had several joint activities including joint webinars on different astrophysical occasions.

Isfahan University of Technology participated actively in the last Marcel Grossmann Meeting (MG18) which is one of the greatest meetings related to relativistic astrophysics, gravitation, and cosmology. IUT organized a parallel session in Dark Matter Searches in that great meeting. Iranian scientists and IUT members have made remarkable contributions to this field of science with various publications in highly ranked scientific journals in past years.

I hope Iran would become a **member state** of ICRANet in a near future. We are interested in establishing joint degree programs with ICRANet member institutions and playing a major role in IRAN's academic realm and scientific activities in astrophysics in collaboration with ICRANet.

Today, we are very proud to host the ICRAANet-Isfahan Astronomy Meeting in the beautiful and historical city of Isfahan. We are hosting more than 32 invited speakers and participants from more than 16 countries.

I hope that your debate and networking in these meetings will result in continued collaborations and create new opportunities for more joint activities between Iran and ICRAANet.

We will be proud to organize the future ICRAANet-Isfahan meeting series every 3 years at Isfahan University of Technology. We hope to see every one of you here in 2024 in person so that you would enjoy the magnificent beauties of the city of Isfahan.

Once again I appreciate your participation in this international event held by ICRAANet and IUT and hope it will open up new ways for future scientific collaboration between our institutions. I sincerely hope you will enjoy today and the next two days of deliberations and networking.

Thank you very much for your participation!