

## Preface

This volume is the proceedings of the fourth General Meeting of the International VLBI Service for Geodesy and Astrometry (IVS), held in Concepción, Chile, January 9–11, 2006. The contents of this volume also appear on the IVS web site at

<http://ivscc.gsfc.nasa.gov/publications/gm2006>

The fourth General Meeting was held in Concepción, Chile, on the campus of the Universidad de Concepción. The meeting was hosted by the Chilean institutions of Universidad de Concepción, Universidad del Bío Bío, and Instituto Geográfico Militar, as well as the Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie, Germany—all institutions being IVS member organizations.

The keynote of the fourth General Meeting was the next generation VLBI system following the main theme of “Next Generation VLBI2010”. A new geodetic VLBI instrument that will meet requirements for the coming decades is envisioned to have small, fast moving antennas, high-speed networks, new correlator systems, and a streamlined data analysis pipeline. Now is the time to initiate system studies and simulations as well as development projects and prototyping to help bring this vision into reality. The goal of the meeting was to provide an interesting and informative program for a wide cross-section of IVS members, including station operators, program managers, and analysts.

This volume contains the following:

- **Welcome addresses.** This section contains the welcome addresses from Universidad de Concepción and from the IVS Chair.
- **The papers presented at the meeting.** There are six major sections of this volume, each corresponding to a meeting session. Poster and oral papers are mixed. This volume includes 75 papers. The overheads of all oral presentations are available on the web at

[http://ivscc.gsfc.nasa.gov/meetings/gm2006/GM2006\\_present.html](http://ivscc.gsfc.nasa.gov/meetings/gm2006/GM2006_present.html),

including those papers for which no extended version was provided for publication. All papers were edited by the editors for usage of the English language, form, and minor content-related issues. Poster papers about IVS component status are not included in this volume; they have been published in the 2005 Annual Report, available on the web.

- **A splinter meeting report.** Included is a report about the seventh Analysis Workshop.
- **A list of registered participants.**
- **The meeting program.**
- **An author index.**

The April 2006 issue of the IVS Newsletter has a feature article about the meeting. The Newsletter is available at

<http://ivscc.gsfc.nasa.gov/newsletter/issue14.pdf>

Photographs taken during the meeting are available on the web at

<http://ivscc.gsfc.nasa.gov/meetings/gm2006/#Pictures>

This URL will display a section of the 2006 General Meeting web page with links to pages of photographs taken by several of the meeting's participants. The section also links to two movies taken during the Opening Ceremony.