

## Welcome Address of Professor Andrey Finkelstein, the Director of the Institute of Applied Astronomy



Dear Minister Professor  
Alexander Viktorov!  
Dear IVS Chair Professor  
Harald Schuh!

Dear colleagues and friends!

I am happy to welcome you in our institute. It is a great pleasure for me to host the fifth General Meeting of the IVS. I am very glad that the General Meeting coincides with the 20-year anniversary of the Institute of Applied Astronomy. Twenty years ago, twenty young scientists and engineers were united in a new institute designing and creating the Russian dedicated VLBI Network “Quasar”. Now “Quasar” is fully operational and regularly participates in the IVS observational programs.

Our American colleagues from NASA played a very important role in the development of the “Quasar” Network. First of all, it concerned our first observatory “Svetloe”, which was equipped with a Mark 3 system owned by our American friends. I have to express my sincere thanks. I am very glad to see some of them here—Chopo Ma, Brian Corey, Alan Whitney—and I am sad that some of them could not come.

In the next three–four years, we will have to develop “Quasar” Network in three main directions. We will unite the three “Quasar” observatories with the 70-meter radio telescope in the far east of Russia, will install there the new generation of satellite laser ranging systems and will connect all four observatories by optical fiber lines and equip theirs with corresponding facilities for the realization of e-VLBI mode. We count on the help of the IVS community and the exchange of ideas and advice is very important for us.

Local committee together with program committee intensively prepared the General Meeting and we will try to provide you the comfortable conditions for work and rest. In this connection I would like to introduce you to Dr. Nadia Shuygina. She is the head and heart of organization in our local committee, and she personally and her team will be able to answer any questions and solve any problems.

Now I want to give the floor to my boss in the IVS Directing Board Prof. Harald Schuh for his Welcome Address.

Thank you!