From	"M. Ohishi" <masatoshi.ohishi@nao.ac.jp>
Sent	Sunday, November 21, 2010 10:47 am
To	kborne@gmu.edu
Subject	Invitation to the SOC for a proposed IAU SpecialSession on Data Intensive Astronomy
Attachments	IAU_SS_Proposal_R1.pdf 47K

Dear Professor Kirk Borne,

First of all let me introduce myself. I am Masatoshi Ohishi of the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan, a radio astronomer in the field of astrochemistry and astrobiology, and I have been working to construct Japanese Virtual Observatory for many years.

I and some VO colleagues in the world (Bob Hanisch of VAO, Paolo Padovani of Euro-VO, Oleg Yu. Malkov of Russian VO and Ajit Kembhavi of VO-India) have proposed a special session on Data Intensive Astronomy during the IAU General Assembly in Beijing CHINA in 2012.

It would be great if you'd agree to serve on the Scientific Organizing Committee. Our primary job is to draft a proposal by December 15th based on the Letter of Intent that was submitted to the IAU (attached), including an outline of program (with a list of possible invited speakers) and Letters of Support from relevant Division / Commission presidents. Once our proposal has been accepted by the IAU EC, we need to select invited speakers, call for contributed talks, formulate the final program, and run the meeting in Beijing.

The philosophy behind this is to think of the emerging field of Data Intensive Astronomy in an era of data deluge where large-scale survey projects such as LSST, Pan-STARRS, SDSS3, VISTA, and others will produce, and powerful instruments like ALMA, LOFAR, SKA, TMT, E-ELT,,, will be in operation. These projects cover wide range of scientific themes: cosmology, the large-scale structure of the Universe, formation of galaxies, star formation, variable stars, transient phenomena such as the Gamma-ray bursts, small bodies in the solar system, extrasolar planets, life in the Universe, dark matter and dark energy, and others.

Our aim of this meeting is to share the current status and scientific goals of the above mentioned projects, and discuss towards the most important and exciting astronomical discoveries of the coming decade, relying on research and development in data science disciplines (including data management, access, integration, mining, and analysis algorithms) that enable rapid information extraction, knowledge discovery, and scientific decision support for real-time astronomical research facility operations.

Please let us know if you'd like to join this enterprise.

With best regards,
Masatoshi Ohishi, interim chair of the SOC

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