

## **The Report on the Participation at the 32<sup>nd</sup> ISTS**

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Participating at the 32<sup>nd</sup> ISTS was a great honour and an extraordinary experience for me. The Opening Ceremony and all of the Highlights were a very pleasant start of the symposium. I think that the timing was perfect and everything on that day was well-organized. The most curious part for me was the Keynote Speech by Dr. Sandra Magnus since she made us stop for a second and think about so many mysterious aspects of space exploration.

The technical sessions were quite interesting which included various topics and highly qualified speakers. The specific sessions that I have attended are: Small Bodies and Dust Explorations, Orbit Dynamics and Control, Explorations of the Moon, Formation Flying and Satellite Constellation, etc. I would like to point out that I was amazed by the quality of the presentations and the content presented. Specifically, it was my incredible pleasure to have the opportunity to attend Dr. Daniel J. Scheeres' presentation. Given the fact that I based my work on my master studies mostly on his research, I was extremely excited to actually have a chance and meet him in person. The presentation that also caught my attention was the one about the rover LEAVO presented by Tomoki Watanabe (Chuo University, Japan). His idea reminded me of something NASA was working on a few years ago (rover RASSOR), so when we talked I advised him to do some research about it. The only inconvenience I would like to mention regarding technical sessions is that I wish there were more seats in rooms 601 A, B, C. Most of the lectures in those rooms were attended in high numbers, so often (due to the lack of seats) people had to stand during certain presentations. I guess that also implies the high quality of the lectures since attendees were so committed, even when there were not enough seats.

I would like to express my gratitude for the session in which I presented my work. Everything went so smoothly and the technical aspect of it was perfect. Well done for everyone, especially the chairmen, for being so incredibly efficient, helpful, and kind all the time. Even though people are usually shy to ask questions in front of everyone, many attendees approached the presenters later with very interesting questions. I was very happy to discuss the topic I presented after the session was done with Nishanth Pushparaj (The Graduate University for Advanced Studies, Japan), who proposed a joint project to me, since our fields of research are overlapping. Additionally, he gave me some very useful advices when it comes to my future work regarding my PhD thesis, which I am very thankful for. I just wish I had at least one

picture of my presentation, but (if I am not mistaken) there was not any photographer at the conference.

The symposium had a great balance between the fruitful lectures and relaxing and fun events. One of those was the Welcome Reception. The ISTS staff were very helpful to all of us finding our way in the city to get to the ceremony site. Since this was my first (and hopefully not the last) time visiting Japan this event was a great chance to enjoy a wonderful traditional musical performance while tasting delicious dishes from Japanese cuisine. At the reception I had a great discussion with Praveen Sankaran (Easar LLC, Russia). Unfortunately, I was not able to talk to many Japanese students due to the language barrier.

Apart from the technical sessions, my favourite experience was definitely the Cultural Night we spent at the Yokokan garden. Over there I had the most profound experience of Zen meditation and tea ceremony. Even though our main focus is science and engineering, it is also important to reflect on our lifestyle habits which is what we achieved after the meditation. Over there I made several new friends such as Anastasia from Ukraine. Also, I had a pleasure of meeting Prof. Dr. Yasuhiro Akahoshi (Kyushu Institute of Technology).

When it comes to the future ISTS, I would recommend you to focus more on advertising the symposium to the international institutions with the emphasis on including more female attendees from the science and engineering communities. I think that ISTS is truly and incredible symposium that opens so many doors to the future international collaborations and I am certain there are many more people who would give their personal contribution, if they were aware of its existence.

I am very thankful that you gave me this wonderful opportunity to become a part of your community and enrich my academic and professional experience. In the future I will make sure to incorporate the knowledge I gained at the 32<sup>nd</sup> ISTS, maintain the relationships with people I met, and promote the upcoming ISTS to all of the astronomers I have met, not only in Serbia, but also around the world.