

São José dos Campos, 18th March 2014

**Eugene N. Parker Workshop on Magnetic Reconnection
18 March 2014**

Leonel F. Perondi

Good Morning

In the name of the National Institute for Space Research (INPE) I would like to welcome you to this memorable workshop on Magnetic Reconnection, in honour of Prof. Eugene N. Parker.

The event has a twofold objective: celebrating the 60 years of Prof. Parker's extremely productive scientific life and reviewing the latest scientific advances in the area.

Prof. Parker's scientific achievements span several decades and cover a broad range of themes in the area of solar astrophysics.

Among so many scientific achievements, one shall mention his famous discovery of the solar wind, which opened a broad research area involving the physics of the interplanetary medium, specifically the interaction of the solar outburst with planetary magnetospheres, especially with the Earth's magnetosphere.

In this Workshop, special focus will be given to Prof. Parker's pioneering work on Magnetic Field Reconnection, as initially applied to the study of solar flares and later extended to the study of the interaction of the solar wind with the Earth's magnetosphere.

This important subject of research has extended in later years to several other areas of research in space plasmas, laboratory plasmas as well as in other important astrophysical scenarios.

I would also like to mention, in this opportunity, that our Institute has received international reputation in some areas of space physics, mainly dealing with magnetospheric physics. The solar and interplanetary origin of magnetic storms, space weather and low latitude ionospheric and geomagnetic research are among the topics which received important and pioneering contributions from INPE's researchers.

Before ending this welcome message, I will try, very briefly, to say a few words about our Institute.

The mission of INPE may be summarised in the statement: “to be the national reference in the access to outer space and its applications, while providing direct returns to society in terms of products and services, industrial policy and diffusion of knowledge”.

The Institute develops activities in five areas: Space Science (Astrophysics, Aeronomy and Geophysics), Meteorology, Earth Observation, Climate Change and Space Technology. In each of these areas, projects deal with both basic research, on one extreme, and products and services, on the other.

With about 1000 staff, among researchers, technologists and technicians, the Institute attempts to implement the complete innovation cycle, developing activities which go from basic and applied research, through product and service development, up to making available to society innovative services and products which impact social and economic life.

I am plainly convinced that the present event will contribute for the dissemination of state-of-the-art knowledge among our scientists and researchers.

I shall take this opportunity to compliment and congratulate the renowned space scientists attending this workshop, who came to honour Professor Parker with their invited talks and to contribute to the discussion of the state of the art of Magnetic Reconnection. I shall say that we are very happy and honoured to receive you in our Institute.

Through the name of Dr. Walter D. Gonzalez I would like to express my congratulations to all the members of the Local Organizing Committee.

Finally, I would like to express my congratulations and thanks to all the research and technical staff from the Space Science Area of INPE, mainly from the Division of Space Geophysics, for the idealization and organization of the event.

We are proud of organizing this important Workshop and I would like to wish to all participants a very nice and productive meeting. To all participants, my wishes of a very fruitful week of work, and a nice stay in São José dos Campos.

Thank you.

L.F.Perondi
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