

PREFACE

These proceedings^(*), edited by the undersigned two editors, consist of papers which were presented at “the Intensive Workshop on Ancient and Medieval Eclipse Data: Compilation of Eclipse Data and Examination of their Reliability” held at the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan, Mitaka, Tokyo, during November 27-28, 2014.

The primary purpose of this workshop has been to unite Asian historical astronomers and historians of astronomy and to encourage mutual communication and collaboration among them. The other purpose of this workshop has been to celebrate the completion of the compilation of Indian ancient astronomical records by Prof. B. V. Subbarayappa. We hope that the compilation may be published as soon as possible. Though there is a larger community of historical astronomers and historians, ICOA, we have been organizing eight small symposia starting from 2006, in which we tried to invite as many domestic and foreign astronomers and historians as our budget afforded. Our target is not so large as that of the ICOA. We try to be intensive. This workshop is a natural extension of the eight small symposia which we organized. We believe that the effort of Prof. Subbarayappa may be inherited to Asian nations which do not yet have compilations of their own astronomical records. Also we believe that these proceedings may serve as a message to researchers who are working on and interested in the studies of Asian historical astronomy and history of astronomy.

We invited speakers from various countries: China, Korea, India, Iran and Japan. Unfortunately the Iranian historian suddenly became sick and could not take part in the workshop. The names of those invited speakers are Prof. B.V. Subbarayappa, Drs. M. Vahia, B.S. Shylaja, A. Kolachana, and K. Ramasubramanian from India, Dr. L.-P. Ma from China, and Prof. Y.B. Lee and Dr. S.-H. Ahn from Korea, and Prof. A. Okazaki from Japan.

After each talk we had a ten-minute break for discussions and snacks. This break helped promote mutual exchanges of information and active discussion. In the evening of the second day we enjoyed dinner in an Indian restaurant near the JR Musashisakai station.

Finally, we very much appreciate the financial support of NAOJ given by Director General Prof. M. Hayashi, Vice Director General Prof. H. Kobayashi, Head of the Division of Optical and Infrared Astronomy Prof. Y. Mizumoto and Dr. T. Nakajima, and the other support from the Japanese Foundation for Promotion of Astronomy. Thanks are also due to NAOJ staff, Ms. M. Takamoto, Ms. H. Kimura, and Ms. M. Noguchi whose cooperation was very helpful in preparing and smoothly running the meeting.

(*) also given at URL <http://optik2.mtk.nao.ac.jp/~somamt/ws2014.html>

November 20, 2015
Misturu Sôma and Kiyotaka Tanikawa
(National Astronomical Observatory of Japan)