

## PREFACE

The idea to hold a Symposium on Star Forming Regions in Japan, before or after the New Delhi General Assembly of the IAU, originated in 1981. One of the main reasons was that the 45-m telescope was expected to be in operation by 1982. In addition it was considered that Japan had been very active in the theory of star formation as well as in mm and IR observations of star forming regions. At the Patras General Assembly of the IAU the issue was brought up for discussion at meetings of Commissions 34 (Interstellar Matter) and 40 (Radioastronomy), the former agreed to sponsor the Symposium, while the latter agreed to co-sponsor it. The IAU Executive Committee accepted the proposal to hold the Symposium on September 1983.

The Symposium was held in Tokyo on 11-15 November 1985, just before the New Delhi General Assembly. It was attended by 250 scientists from 18 countries, and 212 papers were presented. The Scientific Organizing Committee elaborated a superb program of invited and review presentations. The Conference consisted of oral and poster sessions. The oral sessions included review papers, invited papers and a few of the contributed papers; after each presentation a discussion was held. The poster sessions included most of the contributed papers and were very well attended. We consider that the scientific goals of the meeting were amply achieved and we express our thanks to all the participants and specially to the members of the SOC for making them possible.

The Local Organizing Committee prepared an excursion to Nobeyama Radio Observatory on November 13th and two very successful dinners: the welcome party on November 10th and the closing dinner on November 15th. Due to the LOC excellent financial efforts many astronomers from outside Japan were given partial or total support to attend the meeting. The outcome of the LOC efforts was an extremely well planned and run Symposium.

The Proceedings include the review papers (11), the invited papers (14), and the abstracts of the contributed papers (187) presented during the Symposium. Due to the high quality of the contributed papers, the SOC decided to ask the authors for extended versions of the abstracts for inclusion in the Proceedings, opportunity that was taken by most of them. To facilitate the use of the book, an author index, a key word index, and an object index are included.

We have been helped by several people during the editing of the Proceedings. At the University of Mexico, Julieta Fierro proofread

the contributed papers, elaborated the indexes, and provided general assistance to the editors, while Elizabeth Themsel retyped most of the contributed papers, the discussion and the indexes.

M. Peimbert wishes to acknowledge the generous invitation extended to him by the Tokyo Astronomical Observatory. One of the main activities carried out during this visit was the editing of the Proceedings.

Masaki Morimoto  
Chairman  
Scientific Organizing Committee

Manuel Peimbert and Jun Jugaku  
Editors