FOREWORD

This meeting, held in the beautiful island of Vulcano of the Eolian archipelago from September 30th to October 4th 2002, is the third one on the Italian Solar Research and follows the successful previous two, which were held in Rome in 1998 and L'Aquila in 2000.
The number of participants increased steadily from the first meeting to this one, with a large presence of young scientists, demonstrating the vitality of the solar research in Italy validly projected in the international framework, in spite of the dark predictions about its end in use some decades ago among the astronomical community. The renaissance of the solar physics in these last fifteen years, which coincided with a renewed interest of the young scientists in its study, certainly reflects the successes of the space missions devoted to the study of the Sun, the extraordinary discoveries of the helioseismology, and more recently the opening of the very promising field on the Sun-Earth relationships, called space-weather in modern times.
The meeting, mainly sponsored by the Catania Astrophysical Observatory of the National Institute for Astrophysics, the Department of Physics and Astronomy and the Faculty of Sciences of the Catania University, was attended by 73 participants who contributed with 63 articles published in these proceedings, among which there is a limited number of invited review articles to focus the most important problems in the various aspects of the solar research.
Besides the two interesting, and in some case adventurous, half-day excursions to the islands of Stromboli, where the active vulcano gave an unforgettable fire spectacle and Lipari, where the participants had the occasion of visiting the historical museum, the five days were used for discussing, in an informal and friendly atmosphere, the most recent problems concerning the interior of the Sun, its atmosphere, the magnetic activity, heating of chromosphere and corona, solar wind and interplanetary space, space-weather, climate global changes, instrumentation, archives, and the future solar space missions.
At its opening, the meeting enjoyed a simple ceremony for celebrating two events, the retirement of Giovanni Godoli and the 70th birthday of Giancarlo Noci. Both scientists have significantly contributed to the development of solar physics in Italy and played an important role as teachers and guides for the young solar physicists in Italy. A few words for illustrating the career, scientific work and the human aspects of Giovanni Godoli were said by Marcello Rodonò, Santo Catalano and Lucio Paternò, while Giannina Poletto did the same for Giancarlo Noci. Two memorial silver plates were offered by the LOC to the two honoured scientists.
We have to mention that Giulio Del Zanna was awarded a special prize of the SOC, the gold night-pot, for the best paper presentation at the meeting.
Finally, we would like to thank all the participants who made pleasant and scientifically constructive the meeting. Last but not least, C. Anastasi, A. Calí, L. Rapisarda, D. Recupero, S. Sardone deserve special thanks for their efficient support both during the meeting preparation and development.

For the Scientific and Organizing Committee
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