

**C19 Astrophysics:**

The C19 commission has been working fairly well in the last few years. Commission endorsed the following conferences in the last 2 years:

Waves and Oscillations in the Solar Atmosphere: Heating and Magneto-Seismology, September 21, 2007, Porlamar, Isla de Margarita, Venezuela.

24<sup>th</sup> Texas Symposium on Relativistic Astrophysics, Vancouver, December 8-12, 2008.

C19 has since the beginning of 2009 secured significant representation on the International Organizing Committee of the Texas Symposium in Relativistic Astrophysics, with 4 commission members serving in the committee.

C19 Young Physicist Prize: Commission has given the 2008 young physicist prize to Prof. Eiichiro Komatsu of the University of Texas, Austin, for his work on the interpretation of cosmic microwave background data from COBE and more recently from WMAP. Excellent candidates were presented, with the commission also awarding an Honourable mention to two additional outstanding nominees, Maria Volonteri and Sarah Gallagher. Commission expects to present third prize by end of 2010.

International Year of Astronomy: The 2009 International Year of Astronomy (IYA2009) is a global effort initiated by the International Astronomical Union and UNESCO to help citizens of the world to rediscover their place in the Universe through day and night-time sky, and thereby engage in a personal sense of wonder and discovery. A number of C19 members are involved in their own countries. The main goals of IYA2009 are to increase scientific awareness, promote access to knowledge, empower astronomical communities in developing countries, support and improve science education, facilitate new networks, improve gender balance representation of scientists at all levels and promote involvement by under-represented minorities in scientific and engineering careers, and to facilitate preservation and protection of the world's cultural heritage of dark skies.