

Friendship Tied with the Milky Way



Prof. Dr. Richard Wielebinski poses with his co-operator, Prof. Dr. HAN Jinlin from the National Astronomical Observatories of China (CAS), against the Nanshan Radio Telescope of the Urumqi Observatory.



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“The MPG-CAS Partner Group led by Prof. HAN Jinlin from the National Astronomical Observatories of China (CAS) has achieved great success in the determination of the magnetic fields of the Milky Way. The basis of this success was a cryogenic receiver with a polarimeter that was installed in China at the 25m Nanshan Radio Telescope of the Urumqi Observatory. The receiver was a copy of a system installed in the 100m Effelsberg radio telescope of the Max Planck Institute for Radio Astronomy in Bonn, Germany. A very lively exchange of researchers at all levels took place. On the Chinese side several students completed their Ph.D. degrees while participating in the observations in Nanshan and doing data reductions in Bonn. The

German side was active in organizing the observations at the Nanshan Radio Telescope, leading to good local contacts. Many excellent exchanges, also on the personal side, were organized. Lecture courses were given by German staff in various observatories in China. Visiting astronomers from China were welcomed at the Max Planck Institute in Bonn. An impressive list of publications resulted from this cooperation. In addition, several conferences were held in the frame of this cooperation, leading to wider exchange of ideas. Many friendships resulted from these close contacts. The former MPG-CAS Partner Group continues with the investigations of the magnetic fields of the Milky Way as well as other ‘hot’ astronomical topics.” ◀