Sofia Sky-Archive Data Center: Photographic Plate Collections for Developing Countries

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The Sofia Sky Archive Data Center (SSADC) was developed on the base of the Wide-Field Plate Database (WFPDB - http://www.skyarchive.org) as a project of the Working Group on Sky Surveys, Commission 9 of the IAU, and is dedicated to saving plate collections. The center manages 12 PCs connected in a local computer network and a PDS 1010 microdensitometer donated by the European Southern Observatory. The main field of operation is the WFPDB development, plate digitization and image processing for different astronomical tasks in South- and East Europe (Russia, Ukraine, Armenia, etc.), and as a regional coordinator especially for the neighbour countries - Romania, Yugoslavia, Macedonia, Greece and Turkey. The main problem in the way of the WFPDB development is the creation of the computer-readable plate catalogues of the original logbooks because the speed of converting the logbooks in a computer-readable form is very low. The message is: we have to find the way to accelerate this important part of the project where the role of the developing countries in this direction should be very important. (Co-authors are: K. Tsvetkova, K. Stavrev V. Popov, H. Lukarski, A. Borisova, M-E. S. Michailov and G. Borisov of Sofia, Bulgaria, and S. Christov, Bulgarian South-West University).

CCD Observations with Small Telescopes of Moving Bodies

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Astronomy for developing countries must be simple, cheap and attractive. Advanced amateurs with small astronomical CCD instruments could be its base in these regions. Together with the astronomical community and professional astronomers of other countries, amateurs can solve a lot of practical tasks connected with the CCD observations of moving celestial bodies.

The author has analyzed the CCD observations of numbered and unnumbered Minor Planets made in 1998-1999 by amateur astronomers around the world and published in the MPC. The accuracy of their observations is sufficiently high and their contribution to the MPC database is considerable. Amateurs are discovering unknown celestial objects and have a right to name the discovered minor planets.

Pulkovo observatory could take part in Astronomical education and Software creation for the professional astronomers and amateurs from Developing Countries.

Astronomy in Uzbekistan

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Ulugh Beg Astronomical Institute (UBAI) of the Uzbek Academy of Sciences is one of the oldest scientific institutions not only in Uzbekistan, but in the whole of Central Asia as well. There are five departments in the institute. The main directions of research are solar physics, young non-stationary and close