

Building African Partnerships in Astronomical Research

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Abstract

Nigeria has signed Memoranda of Understanding with two observatories in South Africa to carry out Astronomical Research. The cooperation between South African Astronomical Observatory in Cape Town and Centre for Basic Space Science (CBSS), Nigeria in Optical Astronomy started two years ago. Details of the cooperation will be discussed in this paper. Also a month ago CBSS signed agreement with Harteebesthoek Radio Observatory for collaboration in Radio Astronomical research. Details of the cooperation will be presented in this paper. Tremendous assistance already received from observatories in South Africa over the past ten years which has brought the level of astronomical research in Nigeria to its present state will also be mentioned.

We also attempt in this paper to sensitize other African countries to join hands with South Africa in raising the level of astronomical research in the African continent. The formation of Astronomical Society of Africa will assist in the realization of this dream.