

Astronomy Program, SEES
Seoul National University

Astronomy Program, SEES
College of Natural Sciences
Seoul National University
Seoul, 151 - 742 KOREA

Tel : (02) 880-6624
Fax : (02) 887-1435
yun@astrosun.snu.ac.kr

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To whom it may concern:

This is to support the MRI proposal made by NJIT in collaboration with the University of Hawaii. I am a professor of Astronomy Department, Seoul National University in Korea, teaching solar physics and doing solar research for more than twenty years with my graduate students. For lack of observing facility in Korea, I have relied on foreign facilities to train my graduate students. Hence I had opportunities to visit various observatories such as Sacramento Peak Solar Observatory, Norikura Solar Observatory in Japan and Hairou Solar Observatory in China, including Big Bear Solar Observatory.

Since 1998, I became a regular visitor to BBSO with my Ph.D students, at least twice a year during the summer and the winter recess. During the period I found there is no other solar observatory capable of making continuous observation from morning to late afternoon under superb seeing conditions nearly all year round. Technical support has been excellent, and observing facilities have been well maintained and run efficiently. As a result our visit to BBSO has been always productive and successful, allowing us to publish a dozen of papers in internationally well-known journals.

Recently BBSO's plan to replace its principal telescope by a modern 1.6 m instrument has to be a delightful news for a foreign user, since it provides us with an opportunity of using such an upgraded facility, particularly improved in ground-based infrared and high angular resolution capabilities. Based on my experience and judgement I am sure that BBSO will carry out this project successfully and very efficiently. I hope that the MRI project is well received so that BBSO could play a leading role not only for the US but also for international solar community as well. Sincerely I support the MRI project.

Sincerely Yours,



Hong Sik Yun

Professor of astronomy