

Name
Affiliation
Email

Friday, 20 January 2006

**ISSI Workshop on
Mercury
in Bern, Switzerland, on 26-30 June 2006**

Dear ...

With this letter we would like to invite you to participate and play an active role in a workshop on *Mercury*, which is organised and sponsored by the International Space Science Institute (ISSI) in Bern, Switzerland. It will be held on 26 to 30 June 2006. For information about ISSI please refer to our homepage at <http://www.issi.unibe.ch>.

The convenors for the workshop are Leonid Ksanfomality (IKI), André Balogh (ISSI) and Rudolf von Steiger (ISSI). The idea of a workshop on Mercury was originally put forward by Lev Zelenyi to ISSI and its Science Committee. When considering the proposal, the Science Committee of ISSI and its Directors recognised the timeliness of scrutinizing our understanding of this planet that still remains largely unexplored. We consider that it is important to take stock of our knowledge as well as of our ignorance of Mercury and its environment when currently four major space agencies are involved in either a mission that is already on its way or in very advanced plans to send sophisticated orbiters and maybe even a lander to Mercury.

Participation at this workshop is by invitation only. The convenors have endeavoured to create a list of participants who are currently very active in this field and who will cover the relevant topics without making the workshop unwieldy. We have also taken account of the proximity of the MESSENGER team meeting in early June in both the program for the workshop and in the selection of invited participants.

ISSI offers to cover your subsistence costs (hotel and meals) while in Bern. However, we are not in a position to cover your travel costs. If you can accept this invitation we ask you to kindly fill in the registration form attached to the circular. Also, please indicate if you agree with the proposed working group assignments.

A printed volume will be published after the workshop in the *Space Sciences Series of ISSI* by Springer Verlag (see www.issi.unibe.ch/publications). The volume

will be issued both as a hardcover book in our series and also as an issue of the journal *Space Science Reviews*. We expect that papers will be due about 3 months after the workshop so they can reflect the discussions during the workshop. All papers will be peer reviewed, and the volume is expected to appear about 12 months after the workshop.

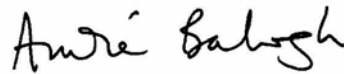
We hope very much that you will be able to attend this workshop and contribute to the volume described above. At ISSI, André Balogh is the responsible local organiser, and Brigitte Fasler will deal with all matters such as reservations, reimbursements, etc. Please let us know at your earliest convenience of your decision, but no later than 15 March 2006, either by fax (+41-31-631-4897) or by e-mail (balogh@issi.unibe.ch). We will then contact you again with a second circular giving more detailed information about the workshop and the accommodation in Bern.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to ISSI at the workshop.

With best regards,
Yours sincerely,



Roger M. Bonnet



André Balogh



Rudolf von Steiger