

Message from the ISSI-BJ Executive Director

Dear colleagues, friends, and visitors of the ISSI-BJ webpage,

As the world is trying to readjust to a new reality and to new challenges never imagined before, the International Space Science Institute – Beijing (ISSI-BJ) is also trying to cope with the new difficult circumstances that are affecting the personal and professional life of us all. Despite such uncertain times, ISSI-BJ continues to operate and adjust its development strategy to the current situation, striving to guarantee continuity for the old and new ISSI-BJ research projects.

As the new Executive Director of ISSI-BJ, following the legacy of Prof. Maurizio Falanga, I am now committed to ensuring the progress of our activities, and to take up the stimulating task of connecting scientific communities in Asia and in Western countries to promote interdisciplinary and intercultural high-quality research in space science amidst these difficult times. It is a challenging yet inspiring position I am honored to be appointed for.

Given the unpredictability of the situation and the still ongoing travel restrictions, we were unfortunately forced to reschedule some of the events arranged in Autumn 2020, such as the ISSI-BJ/APSCO Space Science School on "Analysis and Investigation of Scientific Moon Data". Nonetheless, ISSI-BJ and the ISSI/ISSI-BJ Science Committee have never stopped working on its scientific agenda for the coming years, and as previously announced, we are now ready to resume our scientific program for the latter half of the year onwards.

In fact, in order to maximize the opportunities for safe research collaboration, ISSI-BJ has decided to explore the possibility of hosting online meetings as well as of a new 'hybrid model' of f2f/online gatherings — starting with our International Teams — that would secure the advancement of our teams' studies by pledging to provide the equipment and facilities to connect with remote participants and to welcome in-person meetings, when safe and feasible. As required by the current situation, we remain flexible and agile to adjust the meeting model to each group's needs and peculiarities.

While remaining confident that science will provide a solution, we suggest you to follow the official guidelines published and continuously updated by the [World Health Organization](https://www.who.int), and to keep safe and take precautions to prevent the further spread of the virus and to protect yourself and your loved ones.

We pledge to keep you apprised, as developments require.

Looking forward to welcoming you at ISSI-BJ again,

ISSI-BJ Executive Director

Wing-Huen IP