

1 Foreword

The IERS Annual Report for 2006 describes its ongoing activities in the terrestrial and celestial reference frames and in Earth orientation parameters. The major events illustrate well the connection between the IERS products and the technique services as well as the stepwise nature of progress.

In particular, the release of ITRF2005 by the ITRS Center allowed the IGS to begin improved analysis along with absolute phase center models. ITRF2005 also demonstrated the degradation of the ILRS network caused by the temporary absence of key stations in the Pacific and South America. Using ITRF2005 the EOP series were realigned with an upgraded numerical combination procedure.

The work in 2006 must be considered another phase in the major transformation of IERS product generation. The knowledge gained and questions raised in developing ITRF2005 are stepping stones to further understanding but also must be taken in the direction of obtaining better input data from the technique services, particularly in the geographic distribution and co-location of SLR and VLBI. There is much to be done.

Chopo Ma
Chair, IERS Directing Board