REMEMBERING SAN DIEGO
by Dr. V. Chuyanov, ITER Deputy Director

This is probably inherent to human nature - to appreciate good only when it is gone. We knew that weather in San Diego was good, but how good it was we have understood only after several months of soaking under German rain. When it is sunny every day one starts dreaming about rain and it is difficult to believe that somewhere it is raining all the time.

But this short note is not only about weather. In fact it is not about weather at all. It is about the city and people who hosted ITER for six years and who are fully entitled to share success of this first of a kind and unusual project.

Everyone agrees now that ITER EDA has been a success and not only in the technical sense. Success of ITER as a sociological experiment was determined in very significant part by the people of San Diego - by the City officials and representatives in the State and the Federal Government, by the University of California San Diego, by people who serviced the Project and by people who simply expressed there interest and support.

Excerpt from the Brochure (1991) inviting the ITER EDA to San Diego

"The University of California, in association with General Atomics, Science Applications International, General Dynamics, the City of San Diego and the State of California, is pleased to invite the ITER EDA Joint Central Team to San Diego. San Diego will provide an excellent research environment for ITER EDA, combining exceptional academic and industrial resources with a strong commitment to fusion research. San Diego has been a leading center of magnetic fusion research for over 30 years. The University and General Atomics have long-standing experience in hosting international research teams, and an established infrastructure of support services and programs for international researchers."

"The EDA Joint Work Site will be located near the central campus of the University of California at San Diego (UCSD), less than a kilometer from the DIII-D fusion research facility. Offices, meeting rooms, library, computer space, and cafeteria will be provided in beautifully landscaped, fully appointed facilities in the Heart of San Diego's science research, and development area. ITER project participants will have convenient access to the University's outstanding facilities, with libraries, cafeterias, restaurants, and recreational facilities."

The City took the hosting of ITER very seriously. A special San Diego Site for ITER Committee was created to facilitate ITER Joint Work sitting in San Diego. A lot of thinking was including in preparing and organizing the support. Deep interest to the project has been generated and cultivated for all six years. The San Diego Site for ITER Committee not only won the ITER hosting in a competition with other contenders but continuously supported the Site for all six years.

Wine Tasting in the Temecula Valley
During ITER EDA San Diego became one of the world class Centers of Fusion and was proud of the role. It was a pleasure to answer questions about the Project development asked not only by City officials but by airport shuttle drivers, dentists, bank clerks or simply by our neighbours.

Dr. V. Chuyanov, Head of ITER San Diego Joint Work Site briefing the Members of the Achievement Rewards for College Scientists Foundation Group on 13 October 1994

Problems associated with relocation and accommodation to a new culture have been well understood and softened by friendly every day help. It is difficult now to overestimate the importance of work done by staff of The International Center in the UCSD and personally by Carol Smith who organized support for ITER families and made of the International Center a real ITER club - the center of ITER culture.

A great effort has been performed by Tom Dillon and Maurice Sabado from the Science Applications International Corporation to assemble proper technical support personal and keep the appropriate level of support during all years of project. Their desire to go an extra mile to accommodate project needs, their constant effort to support a feeling of the common goal and the full participation of support personal in technical, political and social life of the project were the most important ingredients of the project success in San Diego.

Santa Claus (Dr. R. Aymar, ITER Director) visits ITER Children at the International Center (December 1997)
The Fusion Office of the DOE paid constant attention to the project. Special meetings with participation of the Head of the Site to consider project support were organized twice each year and were attended by senior representatives of the Fusion Office, UCSD and SAIC. In spite of financial problems of fusion in the US the Joint Work Site always had proper support and equipment. The termination of the project in San Diego by decision of the US Congress created significant difficulties and losses for ITER families. This, certainly, generated distress and some bad feelings. But these feelings will never overshadow our good memories and our friendship with San Diego people who worked with us 6 years, who shared all successes and difficulties of the project, who considered themselves as a part of the project and who were shocked and offended by the termination decision no less than were members of the JCT. These people worked very hard to show that the US is a great country and American people are good dependable friends and they surely succeeded. We all have left San Diego with the best feelings about this City and a part of our soul will stay forever with our friends in San Diego.