

The World at a Glance: Highlights from IAU National Outreach Contacts

Editor's note: From this issue forward, we will have a regular column in CAPJournal featuring brief highlights from the IAU National Outreach Contacts (NOCs) network. The NOCs network was created by the IAU Office for Astronomy Outreach (OAO) by volunteers with extensive experience in public outreach to facilitate communication and actions between the IAU and its national communities. These updates are brief, but you can visit the respective NOC page¹ for more details.



Algeria

Jamal Mimouni: 'The Vibrating Universe', the 16th National Festival on Popular Astronomy, will take place from 22-24th March 2018.



Hungary

Zoltan Kollath: The third International Dark Sky Park (Bükk) was announced.



Romania

Dumitru Pricopi: A national network for meteor observation was set up.



Ethiopia

Alemiyé Mamo Yacob: 'AstroBus-Ethiopia' was organised from the 20th to 30th of October 2017.



Madagascar

Zara Randriamanakoto: Malagasy Astronomy & Space Science was officially registered as an association.



Namibia

Eli Kasai: A World Space Week commemoration was held in early October 2017.



South Africa

Sivuyile Manxoyi: A teacher training programme was conducted on the theme 'Earth and Beyond' in two provinces.



Guatemala

José Rodrigo Sacahui Reyes: The project 'De Guate al Cosmos' was launched.



Zambia

Prosperity C. Simpemba: Zambia is set to launch an astronomy outreach programme in schools in January 2018².



Uruguay

Andrea Laura Sosa Oyarzabal: The public University of Uruguay opened a new observatory³.



Syria

Mohamad AlAssiry: Despite the political situation, the Syrian Astronomical Association was building an observatory and opened in August 2017.



**Bangladesh**

Farseem M. Mohammedy: A beginner's workshop and an event to discuss the Cassini Mission were organised.

**India**

Samir Dhurde: AstroProject film⁴ 'From Dust to Stars' featuring Indian observatories was launched.

**Japan**

Hitoshi Yamaoka: A set of inspired events will be held around CAP2018⁵ in Fukuoka.

**Russia**

Dmitri Wiebe: The first sidewalk astronomy event was organised in Norilsk.

**Indonesia**

Avivah Yamani: The Timau National Observatory will have its first light around 2019/2020.

**Hong Kong China**

Kam Cheung Leung: A seminar on lunar and planetary imaging and observation was organised.

**Nepal**

Jayanta Acharya: The Takshashila Astronomy Club (TAC) organized a talk on 27 November 2017 at the Takshashila Academy hall.

**Sri Lanka**

Thilina Heenatigala: Students of Royal College received the Guinness World Record for launching the highest number of water rockets (1950) simultaneously.

**Thailand**

Wichan Insiri: UNESCO Director General, Irina Bokova, officially declared the International Training Centre in Astronomy (ITCA) open on 28 August 2017.



• The IAU NOCs Network

**Armenia**

Sona Farmanyan: 'Astronomical Heritage of the Middle East' has been approved under the UNESCO Participation Program.

**New Zealand**

Karen Pollard: The Aoraki Mackenzie International Dark Sky Reserve held its third Starlight Festival in October 2017.

Notes

- ¹ NOC pages: www.iau.org/public/noc/
- ² <http://southernafrica.astro4dev.org/>
- ³ <http://www.cure.edu.uy/?q=node/677>
- ⁴ <http://www.astroproject.in/films/>
- ⁵ <https://www.communicatingastronomy.org/cap2018/>