

Preface: Special Session SpS11 Strategic Plan and the Global Office of Astronomy for Development

The purpose of this Special Session 11 was to bring together the many individuals from around the world who are active in realising the spirit of the IAU strategic plan. Appropriately entitled IAU Strategic Plan and the Global Office of Astronomy for Development, this special session invited contributions relating to: (i) IAU Strategic Plan, (ii) The IAU Global Office of Astronomy for Development, (iii) Regional nodes for "Astronomy for Development" activities, (iv) Sector Task Forces, and (v) Volunteers and volunteer opportunities.

The details of the IAU Strategic Plan and the Office of Astronomy for Development can be found in the papers by George Miley and Kevin Govender in this session as well as on the OAD website www.astro4dev.org.

The response to the call for contributions was overwhelming with many excellent contributions proposed. It was decided to allow more Oral contributions by reducing the amount of time per speaker. Requests for Oral contributions which could not be squeezed into the tight 1.5 day schedule were asked to bring their contributions in the form of posters. In the end we had 25 Oral contributions and 25 Poster contributions. A few invited speakers set the scene in terms of the bigger picture, followed by discussions on each of the three Task Forces (universities and research; children and schools; and public outreach), and then discussions about regional developments.

Unfortunately due to the many talks and the space constraints in the proceedings, only some presenters were allowed longer papers (up to 2 pages for invited talks) while the others were asked to submit only a revised abstract not exceeding a half page. We also decided to feature one particular effort in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which was awarded more space.

Poster presenters unfortunately could not be given space for their abstracts so I list the titles and first authors of the Posters here in order to recognise their contributions:

1. Exploring the unknown: the extremely large telescopes of the future (Annalisa Calamida, Rome Observatory INAF)
2. Astronomy Development in Africa Driven by Collaborative Projects (James Chibueze, Kagoshima University)
3. The Kazan lunar investigation to the Russian Scientific - Education Project Kazan-GeoNa-2015+ (Alexander Gusev, Kazan Federal University)
4. Astro Book Drive sharing materials to improve astronomy education in developing countries (Thilina Heenatigala, Sri Lanka Astronomical Association)
5. The Needs for New Astronomical Observatory in Indonesia (Taufiq Hidayat, Bosscha Observatory)
6. How to increase volunteers activity and impact? (Alisher S. Hojaev, National University of Uzbekistan)

7. Reform Of Astronomical Education In Tajikistan (Ibadinov Kh.I., Rahmonov A.A., The Tajik National University)
8. Improvement of science education through Astronomy education in Iran (Sara Khalafinejad, Leiden University)
9. The Development of International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics 2007 - 2011 (Chatief Kunjaya, Institut Teknologi Bandung)
10. Centre of space astrometry and perspective technologies on the basis of Engelhardt Astronomical Observatory (Yura Nefedyev, Engelhardt Astronomical Observatory)
11. How to promote astronomy in non-developed countries with the help of amateur astronomers? (Ana Maria Nicuesa Guelbenzu, Thriinger Landessternwarte Tautenburg)
12. Universe in a Box: A Low-Cost Educational Kit for Astronomy Educators Across the Globe (Jaya Ramchandani, Leiden Observatory)
13. How to measure the Impact of Astronomy for Development Activities in Developing Countries (Valerio A.R.M. Ribeiro, University of Cape Town)
14. Popularizing Astronomy in Undeveloped Countries (Eduardo Rubio-Herrera, Institute of Astronomy -UNAM-)
15. EU Universe Awareness Inspiring every child with our wonderful cosmos (Pedro Russo, EU Universe Awareness/Leiden University)
16. Creating Awareness in Astronomy Education: Turkey as a Successful Example (A. Talat Saygac, Istanbul University)
17. The Cape Town - Toronto High School Astronomy Partnership (Linda Strubbe, Canadian Institute for Theoretical Astrophysics)
18. The GalileoMobile Project (Linda Strubbe, Canadian Institute for Theoretical Astrophysics)
19. South Asian Knowledge Exchange Programmes in Astronomy (Aniket Sule, Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education)
20. Lunar observation from a new viewpoint (Bunji SUZUKI, Kasukabe Girls' High School)
21. Kids fun stars and sky activity at nursery school (Akihiko Tomita, Wakayama University)
22. Astronomical outreach activities carried out in Mexico in the last three years (Silvia Torres-Peimbert, Instituto de Astronomia, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico)
23. Radio Astronomy In Turkey: The Past And The Future (Mustafa Kursad YILDIZ, Erciyes University)
24. Bibliometric study of the astronomy in developing countries (Ivan Zolotukhin, Sternberg Astronomical Institute of the Moscow State University)
25. Vatican Observatory Summer Schools (Jos G. Funes, SJ, Specola Vaticana)

More information about the implementation of the IAU strategic plan and the activities of the Office of Astronomy for Development can be found at <http://www.astro4dev.org>.

Kevin Govender and George Miley, co-editors