

International | Office of
Astronomical | Astronomy
Union | for Development

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NEWS



OAD Annual Call for Proposals

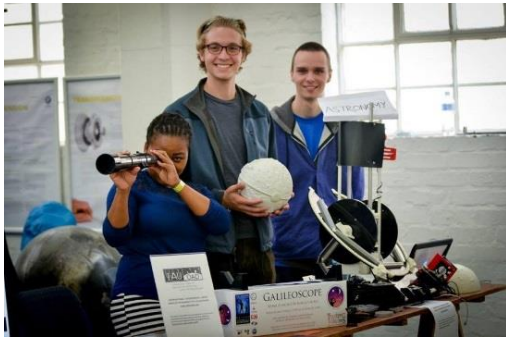
The 2016 OAD Annual Call for Proposals received a total of 103 applications globally. A total of 127 (optional) Expressions of Interest were initially submitted which received feedback from the OAD and its regional offices. Applications are currently being reviewed and results will be announced towards the end of the year.



OAD represented at White House Conference

OAD post-doctoral researcher, Dr Wanda Diaz-Merced, was invited to the White House Frontiers Conference hosted by US President Barack Obama. Her speech on "Making Space Exploration Accessible to All" talked about the need for inclusiveness in Science, including high tech areas such as space exploration and Astronomy and her "dreams of a level scientific playing field" that allows people with disabilities to contribute to the field

Read more and listen to her talk on the [website](#)



Cape Town Mini Maker Faire

The OAD participated in the Cape Town Mini Maker Faire in August. The Maker Faire is an international movement that brings together those who build, design, think and innovate to produce products that might change the world. The OAD had an exhibition displaying resources including 3D printed outreach material and sonification (data-to-sound) demonstration

Read more on the [website](#)

PROJECT UPDATES



OAD Visitors Projects

OAD Visiting Fellow, Dr Tara Batista, joined the team for a month to work on evidence synthesis in Astronomy education interventions. Two self-funded interns, Jamie Ferguson from Scotland and Alex Gagliano from USA, also contributed to the OAD. Jamie worked on sonification software & multi modal aspects while Alex reviewed and summarized the information database for OAD funded projects while completing his project on cultural Astronomy

[Contact us](#) to find out how you can contribute



Astronomy outreach for science clubs

A group of students from the University of Cape Town ran Astronomy outreach activities for school science clubs, sponsored by the OAD as an incentive prize for developing innovative outreach ideas. Invited schools were given introduction lectures on Astronomy and telescope optics. Later the school students built galileoscopes and conducted observations.

REGIONAL OFFICES - HIGHLIGHTS

- **Andean ROAD** ran a successful workshop on 'Astronomy for Development' at the Latin American Regional IAU Meeting (LARIM) in Colombia
- **Arab ROAD and LOAD** held an Astronomy Observational Workshop attended by the public, members of Jordanian Astronomical Society, students & faculty of Zarqa University
- **East African ROAD** launched Middle East and African Regional IAU Meeting (MEARIM) program to be hosted from April 10-15, 2017
- **East Asian ROAD and LOAD** is engaged in curriculum development for new astronomy departments at Qiannan Normal College for Nationalities in Guizhou province and China-West Normal University in Sichuan
- **Portuguese LOAD** supported events surrounding the solar eclipse on September 01, 2016 in Sao Tome and Principe,
- NARIT, the host of the **South-East Asian ROAD**, held the Graduate School Optical Design Summer School with Institut d'Optique. NARIT signed an MOU with Vietnam National Satellite Centre (VNSC)
- **South West and Central Asian ROAD** had missions to Iran for a workshop and discussions following earlier ones to Georgia and Central Asia.
- **Southern African ROAD** with support from Astronomers Without Borders, acquired 450 solar glasses for use during the September 1 annular solar eclipse. Copperbelt University funded the local expenses for 6 members of staff who mounted viewing sites in 7 districts of Zambia
- **West African ROAD** coordinated activities in West Africa during the September 01 eclipse

MEETINGS AND VISITORS

- Steven Kahn from the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST) project visited the OAD to learn about the work we do and explore potential collaborations given the large amounts of data that will be generated by LSST
- IAU President Silvia Torres Piembert and General Secretary Piero Benvenuti visited the OAD in August. They were in South Africa for the IAU-NRF/DST annual high level meeting regarding the OAD.
- Stefan Dreizler led a group of 10 physics students, between 3rd and 5th year, 2 PhD students and 2 staff, to the OAD for a discussion on the role of astronomy and science for development. This was a joint tour from University Kassel, involving their Science Education Department, and University Goettingen in Germany
- Wanda Diaz-Merced gave a talk at the International Symposium "Beyond 2020: Towards an inclusive Science Education" in Monterrey, Mexico
- George Miley (from Leiden University), Doug Arion (Director of Carthage Institute of Astronomy), and Catherine O'Riordan (from American Institute of Physics) all made separate visits to the OAD to discuss various collaborations.
- Govender attended and presented at the annual SAIP (South African Institute of Physics) conference in Cape Town in July
- Govender visited the University of Kwazulu Natal, South Africa to give a presentation on the OAD and discuss collaborations between UKZN and University of Zululand (the OAD has been working with Unizul over the past few years towards the development of astronomy in the Physics department)

- Govender delivered a talk at SANSА (SA National Space Agency) in Hermanus. This was a public event hosted by SANSА and the Hermanus branch of ASSA (Astronomical Society of Southern Africa)
- Govender delivered the keynote address at the International Conference on Research Infrastructures, ICRI 2016, in Cape Town, organized by the South African Department of Science and Technology and the European Commission
- Venugopal gave talks and represented the OAD at the Latin American Regional IAU Meeting LARIM
- Venugopal attended the First Astronomy Inclusion Workshop on Astronomy Beyond the Common Senses, chaired by OAD researcher Dr Wanda Diaz-Merced

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAASTEC conference (Southern African Association of Science & Technology Centers)

Nov 07 - 10, 2016, Richard's Bay, South Africa

<http://www.saastec.co.za/>

Astronomical Data Analysis Workshop 2016

Nov 07 - 18, 2016, Copperbelt University, Zambia

<http://southernafrica.astro4dev.org/astronomical-data-analysis-workshop-2016/>

First Arab Winter School for Astrophysics

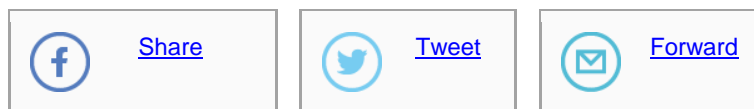
Nov 28 - Dec 03, 2016, Cadi Ayyad University, Morocco

<http://marrakech-astro.uca.ma/fawsa/>

Frontiers in Theoretical and Applied Physics (FTAPS 2017)

Feb 22 - 25, 2017, Sharjah

<http://ar-as.org/ftaps2017/>



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