



International  
Astronomical  
Union | Office of  
Astronomy  
for Development

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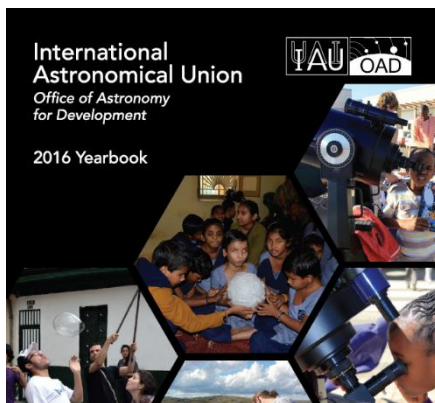
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## NEWS



### OAD Yearbook 2016

The OAD has released its first Yearbook, an annual publication that reflects on the activities and accomplishments of the OAD and the global community during the year. The Yearbook also looks back at all the projects funded across the world and highlights of the year's activities. It also contains information on the OAD Annual Call for Proposals.

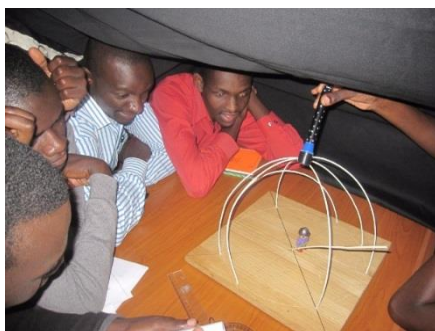
Download the [OAD Yearbook 2016](#)

### OAD Director Keynote Speech at ICRI



OAD Director, Kevin Govender, gave a keynote speech at the International Conference on Research Infrastructures (ICRI). The conference focused on cooperation on globally-relevant Research Infrastructures. It was attended by experts and dignitaries including South African Minister of Science and Technology and Director-General of Research and Innovation in the European Commission.

Watch the [video](#) (starting 01:06:00) or [download presentation](#)



### Guide to Starting a Physics Student Society

OAD intern, Munira Hoosain, created a toolkit of resources to help students start their own Physics or Astronomy clubs. Please send any feedback and comments to [clubs@astro4dev.org](mailto:clubs@astro4dev.org). Munira is an Astronomy student at the University of Cape Town.

Read more on the [OAD website](#)



### First Workshop on Astronomy for Accessibility and Inclusion

The IAU Working Group on Astronomy for Equity and Inclusion organized the first interdisciplinary workshop on Astronomy Beyond the Common Senses for Accessibility and Inclusion. It provided an opportunity to develop new strategies and share experiences in activities developed for audiences with disabilities. OAD researcher, Dr Wanda Diaz-Merced chaired the event.

Read more on the [website](#)



### Science Center Conference

The OAD attended the annual conference of the Southern African Association of Science & Technology Centers (SAASTEC). SAASTEC is the primary gathering of the community of stakeholders engaged in science activities in the region – including but not limited to science centers, museums, outreach teams at universities and research institutions. The theme for this conference was the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Read more on [OAD website](#)



### OAD Team in Cape Town

The OAD welcomes the newest members to the team in Cape Town- Dr Vanessa McBride, an astronomer from South Africa and Dr Wanda Diaz-Merced, postdoctoral researcher from Puerto Rico. In addition, Jack Harvey from the United States has joined us for a self-funded internship.

[The OAD Team](#)

## REGIONAL OFFICES - HIGHLIGHTS

- **East African ROAD** offered training on STEM subjects for basic science university instructors, education strategists, and curriculum experts from education offices and universities in a pilot program implemented with North Carolina Central University, NASA Education Division, Mekelle University, Adigrat University, Aksum University, and Tigray Education bureau
- **Portuguese LOAD** now involves 29 institutions: 11 in Portugal, 11 in Brazil, 2 in Cape Verde, 3 in Mozambique and 2 in Sao Tome and Principe

- NARIT, the host of the **South-East Asian ROAD** held the first astrophysics workshop as the International Training Centre in Astronomy under the auspices of UNESCO
- **South West and Central Asian ROAD** held BAO-70 conference and International Summer School with participation of representatives from Georgia, Iran, Uzbekistan and Turkey
- **Southern African ROAD** hosted a regional astronomy school in December, sponsored by the Copperbelt University (CBU) and the OAD
- **West African ROAD** is running dark skies studies in Nigeria

## MEETINGS AND VISITORS

- Govender moderated a panel discussion at the American Corner of the Cape Town Public Library. The discussion was around astronomy and space science, and speakers were Nadeem Oozeer from SKA and Jim Adams, formerly from NASA
- Niruj Ramanujam from India (NCRA-TIFR and the POEC of the ASI), visited the OAD for various discussion on activities in India
- Catherine Cesarsky, former IAU President and one of the great supporters of the work of the OAD, visited the OAD during her time in South Africa
- Govender had a meeting with Robert-Jan Smits, Director General of DG Research & Innovation at the European Commission
- Venugopal attended the Latin American Regional IAU Meeting in Colombia on behalf of the OAD, presenting at a side workshop organised by the Andean regional office.
- Diaz-Merced and Venugopal attended the 1st workshop on Astronomy Beyond the Common Senses for Accessibility and Inclusion in Colombia in October
- Diaz-Merced attended the White House Frontiers Conference in Pittsburg, US, where she presented a short talk and met President Barack Obama in person
- Venugopal attended the EU-Space Awareness International Space Education Workshop in Leiden, representing the OAD, which is a partner in the project
- Govender attended several meetings at the American Institute of Physics during his trip to Washington, and delivered a lunch talk on the work of the OAD. Meetings were also held with the American Association of Physics Teachers, the American Physical Society and the American Society of Physics Students
- Makola and Venugopal attended the SAASTEC conference in KZN, South Africa, where they jointly presented the work of the OAD
- Govender attended the first face-to-face meeting of the Southern African Regional Office Steering Committee in Kitwe, Zambia
- McBride, Venugopal and Makola attended the Science Forum South Africa, a science and policy conference, in Pretoria
- Govender, on behalf of the OAD, and together with SAAO, hosted the British High Commissioner and British Consul General in Sutherland, the location of the Southern African Large Telescope (SALT)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Frontiers in Theoretical and Applied Physics (FTAPS 2017)

Feb 22 - 25, 2017, Sharjah

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

### 2nd NARIT International Astronomical Training Workshop (NIATW)

March 12 - 17, 2017, Chiang Mai, Thailand

<http://www.narit.or.th/en/index.php/niatw2017/niatw2017-ann>

### International School for Young Astronomers (ISYA)

May 08 - 19, 2017, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

<http://www.eorcworkshop.com/isya-home>

### Fourth Middle-East and Africa Regional IAU Meeting (MEARIM IV)

May 22 - 25, 2017, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

<http://www.eorcworkshop.com/mearim-iv-home>

### West African International Summer School for Young Astronomers

July 23 - August 06, 2017, Ghana

<http://www.astrowestafrika.org/about>



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