





### **8th Face- to- face Meeting of the IAU OAD Steering Committee**

The OAD hosted the annual steering committee meeting in Cape Town from 31 January to 1 February 2017. This is an annual meeting between the OAD staff and the IAU OAD Steering Committee members with the purpose of discussions and giving insights into the activities of the OAD during the preceding year.



### **. Astronomy Conference**

The OAD together with the South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO) are hosting the ninth .Astronomy (pronounced "dot Astronomy") conference in Cape Town from 14-17 November 2017. The purpose of this conference is to explore ways in which new technologies can help astronomical research, education, and outreach. See more information about the conference [here](#).



### **OAD welcomes Dr. Vanessa McBride**

Dr. Vanessa McBride is the newest staff member at the OAD. She is a former lecturer at the University of Cape Town. Her research interests include massive X-ray binaries, Magellanic Clouds, and early-type stars. As an astronomer, she will act as a bridge between the astronomy and development communities. See her profile [here](#)



### Meet the newest visitors at the OAD

There are currently eight people at the OAD, including interns and visiting fellows. The OAD recently hosted Jack Harvey from the United States. Jack joined the OAD for 3 months working mainly on consolidating data from projects funded by the OAD that is being used to build a public, searchable database of projects. The OAD is currently hosting Dr. Paul A. Wilson, an astronomer from Norway who is working on a OAD Data Science Toolkit. See the OAD team [here](#)

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## REGIONAL OFFICES - UPDATES

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- The OAD pays tribute to the late Prof Fidelix Opara, Chair of the **West African ROAD** Steering Committee and Director of the Centre for Basic Space Science, Nsukka, Nigeria. Prof Opara passed away on Sunday April 9, 2017 after a brief illness.
- The 2nd Arab Winter School on Astrophysics (AWSA II) under the **Arab World and Arabic LOAD** was announced. It will be organized in Amman between 19-25 November 2017.
- The third "Astronomy en los Andes" workshop will be held in Peru, in December 2017. This workshop focuses on gathering all the **Andean ROAD** institutions to share results and plan future actions.
- As part of **Portuguese LOAD** Brazil's activities, the "III Girls' Day" took place at the Museum of Astronomy and Related Sciences (MAST) to celebrate International Women's Day
- NARIT, the host of the **South-East Asian ROAD**, held the 3rd ASEAN Astronomy Camp 2017.
- **South West and Central Asian ROAD** together with the Armenian Astronomical Society (ArAS), Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO) and the Armenian Ministry of Culture organising a UNESCO Conference on 13-17 November 2017 in Armenia.
- The fourth Middle East and African IAU Regional meeting (MEARIM), is jointly hosted by Entoto Observatory & Research Center (EORC) and **East African ROAD** from 22-25 May 2017 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

- The Chinese Astrophotography and Poetry competition was organized by **East Asian ROAD**, Beijing Planetarium, and the Amateur Astronomy Magazine, with the Chinese prime minister as a notable contributor.
- Mayvis Musariri, a student at Copperbelt University (host of the **Southern African ROAD**) in Zambia, has been awarded a travel grant by Dr. Sohan Jheeta to attend a conference in San Diego, USA.

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## MEETINGS AND VISITORS

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- Diaz-Merced gave a talk on sonification techniques at the South African Astronomical Observatory's (SAAO) regular [open nights](#) in Cape Town, South Africa.
- Govender, McBride, and Grant attended the [United Nations World Data Forum](#) in Cape Town, South Africa.
- Robert Kirkpatrick, Director of the [United Nations \(UN\) Global Pulse](#) visited the OAD for a meet and greet and for exploring ways in which the UN Global Pulse can work with the OAD.
- Govender and Venugopal met with the Office for Astronomy Outreach (OAO) Office in Japan, to discuss ways in which the two offices can collaborate.
- Diaz-Merced gave a talk at the University of Cape Town (Disability Department) on coping with a disability in the science domain.
- Makola attended South Africa's National [Science Festival](#) in Grahamstown, South Africa, where she jointly exhibited with SAAO's staffer Thembele Mantungwa.
- Venugopal, Wilson, and Makola attended a roundtable discussion on science communication with Dr Christophe Galfard at Stellenbosch University, South Africa.
- Dr Eduardo Rubio-Herrera, project leader of the Guatemalan School of Astrophysics visited the OAD for a brief discussion with the OAD team in Cape Town, South Africa.
- Govender and Wilson attended the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) [Big Data Africa Summer School](#) in Cape Town, South Africa.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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**International School for Young Astronomers (ISYA)**

08-19 May 2017

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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

**Fourth Middle-East and Africa Regional IAU Meeting (MEARIM 2017)**

22-25 May 2017

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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

**Regional Offices Meeting**

26 May 2017

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**Asia- Pacific Regional IAU Meeting (APRIM 2017)**

3 -7 July 2017

Taipei, Taiwan

<http://www.aprim2017.tw/index.html>

**West African International Summer School for Young Astronomers**

23 July - 06 August 2017

Accra, Ghana

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

**Big Data in Astronomy: A Potential Tool For Social Innovation (BARiStA) workshop**

7 - 11 August 2017

Flic-en-Flac, Mauritius

<https://sites.google.com/ska.ac.za/barista/>

**.Astronomy (Dot Astronomy) 9**

14-17 November 2017

Cape Town, South Africa

<http://dotastronomy9.sao.ac.za/>



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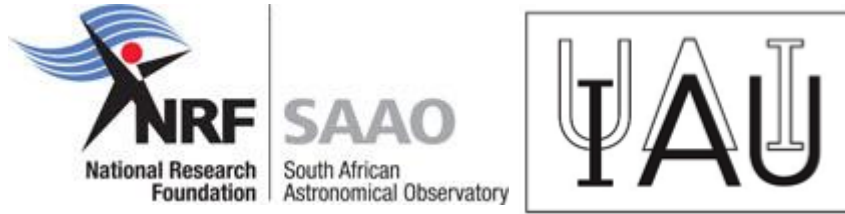


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